



**CASTEISM RAMPANT  
IN BJP-RULED STATES,  
SAYS KHARGE NATION**



**KATRA BANDH ENTERS  
SEVENTH DAY AS  
IMPASSE PERSISTS J&K**



**APRIL-NOV FISCAL  
DEFICIT AT 52.5%:  
GOVT DATA BUSINESS**

**INDIAN-ORIGIN HEROES  
ON KING CHARLES'  
HONOURS LIST WORLD**



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WEDNESDAY | 1 JANUARY 2025

## THE TRIBUNE WISHES ITS READERS A HAPPY NEW YEAR



Fireworks over the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge as part of the celebrations to usher in the New Year in Sydney. AP/PTI

## Dallewal to accept medical aid if Centre offers talks: Punjab to SC

Top court gives state govt two more days to implement its orders

SATYA PRAKASH  
CORRESPONDENT SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 31

The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted two more days to the Punjab Government to comply with its directions on shifting farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who is on a fast-unto-death since November 28, to a hospital.

"Taking into consideration the totality of circumstances and keeping the interest of justice in view, we are inclined to accept the request to afford some more time for compliance with the directions issued by this court," a Vacation Bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia said, posting a contempt petition against the Punjab Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police for further hearing on January 2.



Farm leaders with Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who is on a fast in Khanauri.

**ATTEND NEXT HEARING TOO, CHIEF SECY, DGP TOLD**

"If something happens which is acceptable to all sides, we are equally happy. As of now, we are only concerned with the compliance of our orders," Justice Surya Kant said.

Punjab Chief Secretary KAP Sinha and DGP Gaurav Yadav, who were present during the virtual hearing, were asked to remain present on the next date of hearing on Thursday as well.

of our orders." Punjab Chief Secretary KAP Sinha and Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav, who were present during the virtual hearing, were asked to remain present on the next date of hearing on Thursday as well.

On December 28, the top court had warned Sinha and Yadav that it would frame charges of contempt of court against them if its order on shifting Dallewal to a hospital was not complied with. "It's a contempt case and the next step is known. Why shouldn't there be charges against the Chief Secretary and the DGP? Why should charges be not framed? This is the logical flow of a contempt matter," it had told the two senior officers.

Dallewal has been on a fast-unto-death at the Khanauri border between Punjab and Haryana since November 26 to press for the acceptance of farmers' demands.

Acting on a contempt petition filed by Lakh Singh of Mohali, the top court had on December 27 issued a notice

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8  
EDIT: LOOKING AHEAD

## Punjab extends winter break in schools till Jan 7

CHANDIGARH: In view of the cold weather, the Punjab Government has extended the winter vacation in government-aided, recognised and private schools across the state till January 7. Announcing this on his official X account, School Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains said the decision was taken under the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, considering the prevailing cold weather conditions. All schools will reopen on January 8. — TNS

## Let's forget & forgive: Manipur CM apologises for ethnic conflict

IMPHAL, DECEMBER 31

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Tuesday apologised for the ethnic conflict in the state which has claimed over 250 lives and rendered thousands homeless since May 2023. He appealed to all communities to forget and forgive past mistakes and live together in a peaceful and prosperous state.

Addressing a press conference here, Singh said there had been relative peace in the state in the last three-four months, giving him hope that normalcy would be restored in the new year.

"I want to say sorry for what happened in the state. Many people lost their loved ones and many had to leave their homes. I regret and want to apologise. But after seeing relative peace in the last three-four months, I hope that normalcy will be restored in the coming year."

"Whatever happened has happened... I want to appeal to all communities to forgive and forget our past mistakes and start life afresh by living together in a peaceful and prosperous Manipur," he said.

Singh said firing incidents had declined in the state over the last 20 months since the ethnic conflict began in May 2023. "From May to October 2023, 408 firing incidents were reported. From November 2023 to April 2024, there were 345 firing incidents,



Manipur CM N Biren Singh addresses a press conference in Imphal. PTI

**250 LIVES LOST IN VIOLENCE SINCE MAY 2023**

More than 250 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in the ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023

**STATE ACCOUNTED FOR 77% OF NE VIOLENCE**

Manipur accounted for about 77 per cent of the total violence in the northeastern region in 2023, according to MHA. Among the 243 violent incidents that occurred in the North East, 187 took place in Manipur

whereas from May this year till now, 112 firing incidents were reported," he said.

He said of all the looted weapons, 3,112 had been recovered and 2,511 explosives had been seized during the period. As many as 625 people had been arrested and 12,047 FIRs registered so far, he added.

More than 250 people had been killed and thousands rendered homeless in the ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based

Kuki-Zo groups since May last year. The Chief Minister claimed that the state government was "tirelessly working to improve the law and order situation".

Meanwhile on Tuesday, a clash between women from the Kuki community and security personnel triggered fresh tensions in Kangpokpi district of Manipur. The locals were protesting against the "forceful occupation" of community bunkers by security personnel, claimed witnesses. — TNS/PTI

## Sangh mindset: Kerala CM on Maha minister's 'mini Pakistan' remark

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEC 31

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday vehemently criticised Maharashtra Minister Nitesh Rane for calling Kerala a "mini Pakistan" and said his remarks were highly "provocative" and "condemnable".

"The Sangh Parivar's basic approach towards Kerala is exposed through the words of the Maharashtra minister," the CM said in a statement. "The Sangh Parivar believes it can isolate a place that's difficult for them to influence by alienating and spreading hate campaigns... amounts to insulting the Constitution."

Vijayan maintained that a minister who made the hate statement "did not deserve to continue in the position". "It is surprising that the leadership of the country's ruling party is yet to react to the min-

**BARB INSULTS  
CONSTITUTION**

"The Sangh Parivar believes it can isolate a place that's difficult for them to influence by alienating and spreading hate campaigns... amounts to insulting the Constitution." Pinarayi Vijayan, KBCA/CM

ister's act of serious breach of oath, which amounted to insulting the country's Constitution," he said.

Later, in a post on X, the CM termed the Maharashtra minister's comment as "deeply malicious and utterly condemnable". Such rhetoric reflects the hate campaigns orchestrated by the Sangh Parivar against Kerala, a bastion of secularism and communal harmony, the CM said. "We strongly denounce this

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## MEA promises to provide assistance to Kerala nurse facing execution in Yemen

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 31

A day after Yemen President Rashad al-Alimi approved the execution of an Indian nurse convicted of murdering a Yemeni national in 2017, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday stepped in saying it would extend all possible help in the matter.

Randhir Jaiswal, MEA spokesperson, said the government was aware of Nimisha Priya's sentencing in Yemen. "We understand that Priya's family is exploring relevant options. The government is extending all possible help," the spokesperson said in a statement.

Hailing from Kollengode town in Kerala's Palakkad, Priya's execution is scheduled to take place within a month. Married with a daughter, she moved to Yemen in 2011 and there came in con-

tact with Yemeni national

Thal Abdul Mahdi. Priya's husband and minor daughter had to return to India in 2014 due to financial woes. The same year, Yemen was engulfed in civil war and the duo could not return as the country stopped issuing new visas.

As Yemen's law bars foreigners from starting their own businesses unless they have local partners, Mahdi is said to have helped Priya set up a clinic in capital city Sana'a.

In 2017, Priya was convicted of murdering Mahdi even as she called it "an act of self-defence". She alleged that Mahdi had been harassing her for money and had even seized her passport. She also alleged that he forged her documents to project himself as her husband while subjecting her to physical and emotional abuse.

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## SGPC seeks judicial probe into killing of 3 youths in Pilibhit

AMRITSAR: The SGPC on Tuesday demanded a judicial inquiry into the killing of three Punjab youths in a police encounter in Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh. On December 23, a joint team of the Punjab and Uttar Pradesh police had killed the three suspected terrorists in an encounter. They were allegedly involved in a grenade attack on a police post in Gurdaspur. During a meeting, the SGPC passed a resolution, raising serious questions over the police encounter. "This is a serious matter and it seems like a deliberate act to target Punjab's youths," the resolution read. **INSIDE**

## Messiah for the missing: Cyber expert reunites families via digital footprint

Chandigarh-based Gurcharan Singh has traced hundreds of missing persons over past 16 years, all for free

JUPINDER JIT SINGH  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 31 When a Class IX student went missing from a Jammu school, his family explored all avenues in a desperate attempt to trace him, but to no avail. Two months later, they approached Gurcharan Singh, a cybersecurity expert in Chandigarh, and within a short span, the boy was back with the family.

A member of cybersecurity faculty at the Central Detective Training Institute under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Gurcharan trains police officials in investigating online frauds. But his expertise lies in finding missing persons,

and he does it out of passion.

In 2008, Gurcharan stumbled upon his first case — a missing girl from Jhajjar — and since then has traced hundreds of such individuals, including children.

A messiah for missing persons, Gurcharan follows the digital footprint of his subjects to track them down. He has mastered the art of navigating through the murky waters of the digital landscape, using social media, online transactions, CCTVs, smart TVs and even GPS data as tools to zero in on the subjects.

Sharing his experiences in a video interview with *The Tribune*, Gurcharan, who hails from Yamunanagar in



Haryana, reveals how the Facebook account led him to the Jammu boy.

"To open a new account on the social media, one needs to be 18, have a phone and an

email ID, where the OTP is sent for verification. The boy lied about his age and created the account using his mother's phone. The family was kept in the dark. Once I

**EVERYTHING IS  
TRACEABLE ONLINE**

"Every click and every search creates a trace. The digital footprint on the 'cloud' is vital. In today's connected world, we have the tools — if we know where to look."

Gurcharan Singh, CYBERSECURITY EXPERT, CENTRAL DETECTIVE TRAINING INSTITUTE, CHANDIGARH

found working as a waiter there," he shares.

The Jhajjar girl case, which was his first, turned out to be that of elopement. "Through the digital footprint, I could pinpoint her live location in a moving train. The police found her at the next railway station."

He recalls another case involving a prominent Gujarati doctor who had been missing for three months. "He was found in a meditation centre in Himachal. The digital footprint can't be erased," he asserts.

"Police from various states approach us. I have trained many cops who are doing a great job, but due to the pressure of probing other crimes, their priorities shift," he says.

"Families often approach self-styled godmen for help, but the scientific way of finding someone is through their digital footprint," he asserts.

"Every click and every search creates a trace. You can check the CCTV and even smart TV for leads," he says.

Gurcharan doesn't get paid for all the hard work, but the gratification, he says, is priceless. "I used to trace cyber frauds. And when I achieved some success, I thought of helping families in despair. Seeing them reunite with their loved ones is what drives me. That's why I do this. To see that joy, that relief — it makes it all worthwhile," he adds.



# Police dept tops bribery cases in crackdown against corruption

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 31** Of the 104 trap cases in 2024 where officials were caught red-handed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Haryana, 34 involved police officials, representing the highest number of cases against any single department. One of the cases involved two sub-inspectors from Faridabad. Sub-Inspector Arjun Singh was caught red-handed accepting a bribe of Rs 12.5 lakh. An additional Rs 7.47 lakh was recovered from his vehicle on November 21. The bribe was allegedly demanded to facilitate bail for two individuals in a cyberfraud case. Sub-Inspector Ram, a co-accused, fled the scene. This case marked the highest bribe amount recovered in 2024. In another instance, Kanungo Karambir Singh from the Revenue Department was apprehended on November 26 in Kaithal while accepting a bribe of Rs 5 lakh. Additionally, an HCS officer and an Excise and Taxation official were arrested during separate raids.



## SPECIAL REVIEW OF CIVIL WORKS

During a special review of 71 civil works by the technical wing of the ACB, action was recommended against 63 officials from various departments, alongside the recovery of ₹2.82 crore.

Overall, the ACB registered 155 cases in 2024, including 104 trap cases that led to the seizure of Rs 88.29 lakh in bribe money. A total of 86 individuals, including six gazetted officers, 80 non-gazetted officials, and 31 private individuals, were caught red-handed accepting bribes, according to a government spokesperson. This amounts to an average of seven public servants being arrested on corruption charges each month. In comparison, the ACB's performance in 2023 was

higher, with 205 cases registered. Of these, 152 were trap cases, resulting in the arrest of 30 gazetted officers, 156 non-gazetted officials, and 40 private individuals. A total of Rs 86.12 lakh in bribe money was seized. Among the 104 raids conducted last year, 34 targeted the police department, followed by 11 involving power utility officials, nine from the Urban Local Bodies Department, eight from the Excise & Taxation Department, seven from the Revenue Department and six from the Health

## INQUIRIES & ACTION

- Of the 90 inquiries conducted in 2024, the ACB recommended criminal cases against 47 gazetted officers, 57 non-gazetted officials and 29 others in eight cases.
- In 24 inquiries, departmental action was recommended against 31 gazetted officers and 52 non-gazetted officials. In other 29, both criminal cases and departmental action was recommended against 33 gazetted officers, 43 non-gazetted officials and three private individuals.

Department. In 2023, as many as 49 police officials were caught red-handed, along with 21 from the Revenue Department, 10 from power utilities, seven from the Road and Supply Department and six from the Urban Local Bodies Department. "The Anti-Corruption Bureau is committed to intensifying the drive against corruption and all cases of bribery have been dealt with strictly and more crackdowns will follow in the coming days," said Alok Mittal, Director General, ACB.

## Anger mounts as missing Jhajjar minor remains untraced for month

RAJAJAR, DECEMBER 31

Members of the Scheduled Caste (SC) community staged a protest in Bahadurgarh town today, expressing anger over the alleged "slackness" of the police in tracing a 14-year-old girl who went missing under mysterious circumstances a month ago. "The girl went out to buy goods from a shop near Shiv Chowk in Bahadurgarh on December 1 but never returned. Despite extensive searches by her family and the police registering a case, her whereabouts remain unknown," said Bijender, who led the protest. He warned, "If the girl is not recovered by January 3, we will meet CM Nayab Saini during his visit to Bahadurgarh to demand immediate action." Investigating officer Harish Kumar said a special investigation team has also been formed to intensify the search, he added. — TNS

# Loharu Dalit girl suicide: Minister assures action against culprits

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 31** Haryana Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Krishan Bedi assured that action is being taken against those responsible for the tragic suicide of a Dalit girl in Loharu. Speaking to the media, Bedi said an FIR has been filed and the police are working diligently to apprehend the accused. Responding to tweets from Congress leaders criticising the government's handling of the case, Bedi countered that these leaders should focus on demanding action against the culprits rather than defending them. "An FIR was registered at Loharu police station on December 27 based on a complaint from the victim's father, who alleged that the college principal and his brother mentally and physically tortured the girl," Bedi said. "The police are actively pursuing the accused and justice will be done."

## TARGETS CONG

- Reacting to the government's criticism by Congress leaders, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Krishan Bedi questioned why Congress leaders remained silent during incidents such as the Mirchpur violence.
- He urged Congress leaders to retract their tweets on the issue and join efforts to seek justice for the victim.

The Social Justice and Empowerment Minister pointed out that the college in question had been promoting free education and transport facilities in the area. He mentioned that videos featuring the local MLA discussing these initiatives are circulating on social media.

He also targeted Congress leaders for their remarks on the case. "Instead of tweeting half-heartedly, these leaders should focus on demanding action against the culprits. Their tweets appear to shield those responsible," Bedi alleged. Bedi questioned why Congress leaders remained silent during incidents such as the Mirchpur violence. He directly called out former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, asking, "Will Hooda now ask his MLA about this matter?" He urged Congress leaders to retract their tweets and join efforts to seek justice for the victim. "The government stands firmly with the victim's family and is committed to ensuring justice," he stated. Reiterating the government's stance, Bedi condemned the incident and assured that action would be taken against the accused without delay.

# Farmers gear up for Jan 4 state-level kisan mahapanchayat in Tohana

PAKVEEN ANORA

KARNAL, DECEMBER 31

In preparation for the national-level kisan mahapanchayat scheduled for January 4 in Tohana, Fatehabad, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) Haryana has intensified its efforts to mobilise farmers. As part of this initiative, the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU), an SKM member, held a meeting in Karnal, attended by office-bearers from three districts. BKU state president Rattan Mann criticised the government for failing to address the farmers' longstanding demands. He warned of "dire consequences" if the government continued to delay action. Farmers at the meeting raised slogans against the government and dismissed its claims of procuring 24 crops at minimum support price (MSP) in Haryana. Mann accused the Chief Minister of misleading farmers. "Instead of making false statements, the CM must secure a guarantee letter from the Union government for an MSP law," Mann demanded. He further alleged that the BJP



BKU president Rattan Mann addresses office-bearers of three districts in Karnal on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

government has consistently neglected farmers' issues, forcing them into nationwide protests. They also voiced concerns about the deteriorating health of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on an indefinite hunger strike for over a month to push for the fulfilment of farmers' demands. Blaming the Central Government for its indifference, Mann said, "The government's stubbornness has left leaders like Dallewal with no choice but to take extreme steps." Mann highlighted the significance of the January 4 kisan mahapanchayat in Tohana, describing it as a key demonstration of the farmers' ongoing unity and strength. He urged farmers to turn out in large numbers to ensure its success. "Tohana Kisan Mahapanchayat will feature prominent leaders such as BKU national spokesperson Rakesh Tikait, national general secretary Yashvir Singh and several other leaders from across the country. A significant number of farmers from Punjab are also expected to join," Mann said.

He announced that a joint Punjab-Haryana farmers' meeting would also be held in Moga, Punjab, on January 9 to continue strategising for their demands. Reiterating the farmers' primary demand for a legal guarantee on MSP, Mann emphasised that the movement would not back down regardless of the sacrifices required. He also accused the BJP government of formulating policies aimed at dismantling traditional grain markets, further endangering farmers' livelihoods.



Led by Prithla MLA Raghbir Singh Tewatia, SKM leaders submit a memorandum for the release of compensation to the Deputy Commissioner in Palwal on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

# Hail-hit farmers find support as MLA backs demand for relief

BIJENDRA AHLAWAT

DELHI, DECEMBER 31

Farmers affected by the recent hailstorm in the region have found a strong ally in Congress MLA Raghbir Singh Tewatia, who accompanied a delegation of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) to submit a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner on Tuesday, seeking immediate compensation for the damage caused to standing crops and vegetables. Tewatia, representing the Prithla Assembly segment, expressed solidarity with the farmers and urged the state government to expedite financial support. "Coming from a farming background, I fully understand the pain and suffering of farmers who often bear the brunt of such calamities. Without government support, they cannot recover from these losses," he said.

While acknowledging the state government's recent announcement of a survey to assess the damage, Tewatia emphasised the urgency of releasing compensation, particularly for marginal farmers who are unable to absorb the financial impact. Mahender Singh Chauhan, spokesperson for the SKM, highlighted that crops in 25 to 30 villages had been severely affected by the hailstorm. A detailed survey is required to determine the exact extent of the losses. Villages listed in the memorandum include Ghughera, Alikha, Dhatir, Yadupur, Kakrali, Karana, Gelpur Badha, Maheshpur, Mandori, Johar Kheda, Durainchi, Khokhiyaka, Gharot, Rakhouta, Janachauli, Ahuka and Jainpur. Chauhan said farmers in the region were already grappling with challenges such as inadequate irrigation facilities, shortage of fertilisers and seeds, and issues with disposing of paddy stubble. "The hailstorm has further distressed the crop growers, pushing many to the brink," he stated.

The memorandum also called for the release of adequate water in the canals connected to the Agra Canal in Palwal district to ensure sufficient irrigation for wheat crops. DC Dr Harish Kumar Vashisht said the concerns raised in the memorandum would be forwarded to higher authorities for necessary action. She criticised the increasing number of rapes against Dalit women in Haryana and other BJP-ruled states. "Why are incidents of atrocities against Dalits and tribals rising continuously in BJP-ruled states?" she asked. The Congress leader pointed out that Dalits, comprising 22% of Haryana's voters, are often deprived of democratic rights. "The constitutional rights meant for them hold little significance in Haryana," she said. — TNS

## ₹90 cr drought relief bonus for farmers released

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 31

In a gesture aimed at supporting the state's paddy farmers, Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shyam Singh Rana has released Rs 90 crore as a drought relief bonus. The announcement comes as a New Year gift to farmers facing adverse climatic conditions. The bonus, amounting to Rs 2,000 per acre, has been disbursed to farmers under the drought relief scheme announced by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. Rana released the funds online from his office and also held a pre-Budget discussion with officers from agriculture, horticulture and allied departments. The minister urged officers to develop comprehensive plans for the upcoming Budget, focusing on the overall welfare of farmers. He stressed the importance of procuring all 24 crops at the MSP and ensuring the timely implementation of various schemes aimed at farmers' welfare. — TNS

# Leaders pay homage to Chautala, hail his legacy

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SIRSA, DECEMBER 31

At a condolence meeting held in Chautala village today in memory of former Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala, a number of prominent leaders, including BJP national president JP Nadda, Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Punjab's former Deputy CM Sukhbir Badal, former Finance Minister Manpreet Badal, farmer leader Rakesh Tikait and BJP state president Mohan Lal Badoli, were present. They honoured Chautala's contributions to Haryana's political and developmental landscape. A five-minute documentary chronicling OP Chautala's life and legacy was screened during the event. The video concluded with Chautala naming Abhay Chautala as his political successor in the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD). Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait, addressing the gathering, called for unity within the Chautala family, urging them to set aside differences. "The government's own slogan is, 'Divided we fall.' The family must come together for the greater good," he emphasised, underscoring the strength and unity in the family.



Union Minister JP Nadda pays tribute to former Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala in Sirsa on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

CMSaini described OP Chautala's life as an "open book" filled with lessons in dedication and service. He praised Chautala's relentless efforts to guide Haryana's progress, saying, "His commitment to public welfare has left an enduring legacy for all of us to follow." Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya remembered Chautala as an visionary who championed Haryana's water rights. Recounting their interactions during Chautala's tenure, he

commended his steadfast dedication to the people's interests and the state's development. Nadda remarked that Chautala's passing marked the end of an era. He highlighted Chautala's advocacy for labourers, farmers and the middle class, noting his pivotal role in transforming Haryana into a progressive and developed state. Abhay Chautala fondly recalled his father's guidance in teaching resilience and morality and praised his tireless dedication to the welfare of the common man and his party, even in his later years.

# With 56,830 selections, highest number of jobs given in '24: HSSC chief

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 31

Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC) Chairman Himmat Singh has said significant steps have been taken to streamline the recruitment process in the interest of candidates after the reconstitution of the commission on July 18, 2024. Addressing a press conference, he said this year, the commission declared results for a total of 56,830 candidates, of which approximately 36,000 results were successfully announced in just 56 working days. Talking about the commission's achievements and initiatives, Singh said the commission had utilised social media platforms to raise awareness among candidates and linked them with the commission's official website. For the first time, candidates could directly contact any officer of the commission via phone or message to register their complaints. He said the commission strongly advocated for the interests of the candidates in court regarding the delayed recruitments. Singh shared

that a total of 266 cases were filed concerning the results of 24,000 recruitments announced by the commission, and 418 cases were filed regarding the TGT exam results, on which the commission is taking swift action. The commission successfully conducted 28 exams in just 56 days. The remaining exams would also be conducted soon. The state has released the largest result of 24,000 candidates, said Singh, adding that compared to previous years, this year saw the highest number of youth being provided employment, with 56,830 selections. Sharing the details, he said in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, the recruitment was done on 2,780 posts, 2,229 posts, 8,403 posts and 20,141 posts, respectively. In 2019, as many as 34,549 posts were filled. In 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, the recruitment was carried out for 8,894 posts, 3,851 posts, and 16,386 posts, respectively, and in 2023, at least 838 posts were filled. He said a portal would be launched for complaints, where a specific time frame for resolution would be fixed, and candidates would receive updates via messages.

## Capt Yadav seeks relief for crop loss

NEWARI, DECEMBER 31

Congress leader Capt Ajay Yadav yesterday called on CM Nayab Singh Saini at his residence in Chandigarh and apprised him of various problems being faced by people of Rewari. He sought compensation to the affected farmers by announcing giridawari to assess the losses. — TNS

# Selja slams BJP over 'rising atrocities' against Dalits

HISAR, DECEMBER 31

Sirsa Congress MP Kumari Selja has alleged that incidents of Dalit oppression have significantly increased in BJP-ruled states, accusing them of turning into "laboratories for atrocities against Dalits." Raising the issue of the tragic suicide of Diksha, a Dalit girl allegedly denied her exam due to unpaid college fee, Selja criticised the BJP for its failure to protect marginalised communities. "Diksha's only fault was being born into a poor Dalit family. This incident exposes the hollow nature of the BJP's slogan 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao,'" Selja said in a post on X. She questioned when the government would end dis-

crimination based on social and economic conditions. "Is the BJP's model of development limited to a select few? Do the dreams of children from Dalit and weaker sections hold no value?" she asked. She criticised the increasing number of rapes against Dalit women in Haryana and other BJP-ruled states. "Why are incidents of atrocities against Dalits and tribals rising continuously in BJP-ruled states?" she asked. The Congress leader pointed out that Dalits, comprising 22% of Haryana's voters, are often deprived of democratic rights. "The constitutional rights meant for them hold little significance in Haryana," she said. — TNS

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER QUOTATIONS

Sealed Quotations are invited for finalization of rate contract Tender (RCT) for purchase of ICT enabled items and hardware items for various projects running under DITS, Palwal. For detail information, term & Conditions please visit at: [etenders.hry.nic.in](mailto:etenders.hry.nic.in)

Member Secy,  
DITS, Palwal



For any inquiries or assistance, please contact us at [hr@nsdcindia.org](mailto:hr@nsdcindia.org)



### Suspended jathedar flays SGPC probe

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, DECEMBER 31 The suspended Jathedar of Takht Damdama Sahib, Giani Harpreet Singh, on Tuesday slammed the SGPC for opening a probe against him.

"I have learnt that an unauthorised committee formed to investigate baseless charges against me has been given more time. If they think that the allegations against me are true, they should terminate my services," he said.

The probe pertains to a complaint by Gurpreet Singh of Muktsar, who claimed that he was married to the Jathedar's sister-in-law. In his complaint to the SGPC on December 18, Gurpreet alleged that the Jathedar interfered in his married life, leading to his separation. He claimed the Jathedar used his influence to harass him and entangled him in court cases. He said he was an employee of the SGPC, but lost his job and slipped into depression.

## 'Deliberate act': SGPC demands judicial probe into UP encounter

3 Punjab youths accused of Gurdaspur grenade attack were killed in Pilibhit

AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 31 The SGPC executive on Tuesday demanded a judicial inquiry into the killing of three Punjab youths in a police encounter in Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh.

On December 23, a joint team of the Punjab and Uttar Pradesh police killed three suspected terrorists, who were allegedly involved in a grenade attack on a police post in Gurdaspur, in an encounter in Pilibhit's Putanpur.

During a meeting of the executive, which was held under the chairmanship of SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhami, a resolution, raising serious questions over the police encounter, was passed. "This is a very serious matter and it seems like a deliberate act to target Punjab's youths," the resolution read, which also termed the encounter a serious violation of the human rights.

The SGPC also passed a resolution rejecting the demand for excommunication of the human rights.



SGPC executive members at a meeting in Amritsar. TRIBUNE PHOTO

**JUNKS CALL TO EXCOMMUNICATE CHAURA**

- The SGPC executive passed a resolution rejecting the demand for excommunicating Narain Singh Chaura from the Panth.
- A former terrorist, Chaura recently tried to assassinate SAD leader Sukhbir Singh Badal outside the Golden Temple.

**GIVES MORE TIME TO PROBE PANEL**

- The Sikh body extended the duration of the panel probing harassment charges against Giani Harpreet Singh, the suspended Jathedar of Takht Damdama Sahib, by a month.

ing former terrorist Narain Singh Chaura from the Panth. Chaura recently tried to assassinate SAD leader

Sukhbir Singh Badal outside the Golden Temple.

The Sikh body also extended the duration of the panel probing charges against Giani Harpreet Singh, the suspended Jathedar of Takht Damdama Sahib, by a month.

The probe panel was formed in the previous executive meeting held on December 19 to probe allegations against the jathedar. Resolving to hold an impartial probe against the jathedar, the executive reasoned that the decision was taken on account of the proposed elections to the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee.

The executive condoned the demise of former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh by reciting "mool mantar" and passing a resolution, highlighting the veteran leader's contribution to the country's growth and hailing his statesmanship.

## In crackdown on drug trade, 8,935 peddlers held in '24: IG

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 31 The state police arrested as many as 8,935 drug smugglers and suppliers, including 210 big fish after registering 12,255 FIRs in 2024.

This was revealed by IG Sukhchain Singh Gill while addressing a year-end briefing on Tuesday.

He said police teams recovered 1,099 kg heroin, 991 kg opium, 414 quintals poppy husk and 2.94 lakh tablets, capsules, injections and vials of pharma opioids from across the state. Besides, Rs 14.73 crore drug money had been recovered, he said.

Bathinda witnessed the registration of maximum number of 601 drug smuggling cases followed by Nawanshahr (572) and Patiala (531) in 2024. The IG said the police also forfeited 531 properties worth Rs 335 crore of big smugglers this year. He said 71 drug consumers, caught with little quantity of drugs, availed relaxation under Section 64-A of the NDPS by pledging to go for rehab, he added.

Listing achievements, Gill said, "From the series of attacks on police establishments to high-profile killings of Hindu leader Vikas Bagga at Nangal and ex-terrorist



IGP Sukhchain Singh Gill

Ratandeep Singh, the state police left no stone unturned in bringing the perpetrators to justice."

Other notable cases solved included the hand grenade attack at a house in Sector 10, Chandigarh and at a petrol station in Mansa; besides the triple murder case in Ferozepur. Gill said as part of the ongoing drive against proclaimed offenders and absconders under the NDPS cases, the police arrested 843 accused in 2024.

Recounting success against gangsters, the IG said the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) along with field units succeeded in busting 198 modules by arresting 559 gangsters/criminals and seized 482 weapons, 102 vehicles, 7 Kg heroin and Rs 2.14 crore drug money from their possession.

At least 64 exchanges of fire took place between police

parties and criminals, during which three gangsters/criminals were neutralised and 63 arrested.

"Unfortunately, one of our colleagues attained martyrdom while nine police personnel suffered injuries," Gill said. Providing details on action against terrorists, the officer said the Internal Security Wing busted 12 modules with the arrest of 66 terrorists.

It also seized two rifles, 76 revolvers and pistols, two improvised explosive devices (IEDs), 758 grams of RDX and other explosives, four hand grenades and 257 drones.

Police teams recovered 185 kg heroin, 24 pistols, an AK-47 rifle, an IED and Rs 4.18 lakh drug money dropped via drones, Gill said and added there were 513 drone sightings during the year.

Acting against the use of mobile phones inside jails, the Punjab Police blacklisted 2,348 IMEI numbers and blocked 731 mobile numbers. At least 483 social media accounts glorifying gangsters and promoting violence were also blocked, he said.

The Punjab government has been focusing on strengthening and modernisation of the police force, the IGP said.

## Assets worth ₹3 cr seized

FARIDKOT, DECEMBER 31 In a move against drug trafficking, the Faridkot police seized properties, worth Rs 3.38 crore of 13 notorious drug peddlers operating in the district. The action was taken under the stringent

provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, a law aimed at curbing drug-related crimes and disrupting the activities of drug cartels, said Dr Pragya Jain, SSP Faridkot. — TNS

## No fresh FIR in Kapurthala farm case; didn't employ kids: Owner

APARNA BANERJEE

BRINDPUR, DECEMBER 31 Two days after 11 children were rescued from a potato farm at Brindpur in Kapurthala, the state police were yet to file a fresh FIR against the owner.

Though two FIRs were registered against two contractors in Bihar on the charges of child labour and sexual exploitation of a 15-year-old girl, the state police were yet to act.



Teja Singh (left) the owner of Pehalwan farms. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MAHESH SINGH

When contacted, Kapurthala SSP Gaurav Toora said, "An FIR was lodged in Punjab after a raid on the same farm in November. We are in the process of filing a chargesheet

in that case."

DSP Deep Karan Singh said, "The first complaint against Bigan Rai (one of the contractors) received on November 21, following which the farm was raided and eight persons, including a minor, were rescued. The information regarding FIRs in Bihar was received on Sunday. After verification, we will also file an FIR."

Meanwhile, Teja Singh (82), the owner of the farm who is at the centre of the controversy involving employment of child labour at his Pehalwan Farms, rejected the charges. An FIR was filed against Teja Singh at Sadar police station on December 25, pertaining to a raid in November under Section 3 of the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986 for employing a child labour. The contractor employed at his farm is absconding. Two FIRs

were filed against the contractor (Bigan Rai) in Bihar.

A former lightweight wrestler, Teja Singh said he was distraught at the charges levelled against him. "As a son, paan, ghar deta, Chaiti Puja rakha... par sudhe te galat ilaam lag gaya. (We gave nation, money and accommodation, and organised Chaiti Puja for them, but they levelled false charges against us)," he said.

Teja Singh claimed he first got to know about Bigan Rai from another potato farmer and had no inkling about his involvement in criminal cases.

He said, "Bigan had employed many labourers in our farms. We paid him Rs 7-8 lakh this season. Labourers from Bihar live with their children. He didn't tell us he had also employed them. We are not aware of the 16-18 work hours or the sexual abuse charge."

## No invitation for talks yet from SC-named panel: Farm unions

SUSHEEL GOYAL

SANGRUR, DECEMBER 31 Speaking on behalf of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (Non-political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM), farm leader Abhimanyu Kohar today said none of these unions had received any invitation from the Supreme Court-appointed committee, formed to look into the issues of farmers, for January 3 meeting in Panchkula.

In the same breath, he said they would not go to attend the meeting with the committee at any cost.

On December 16, the kisan unions received an invitation from the committee to hold talks on December 18, however, farm leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, whose fast-unto-death entered Day 36 today at the Khanauri border, wrote to the panel stating that their demands were related to the Centre, thus



Farm leader Abhimanyu Kohar addresses the media on Tuesday.

they would only talk to them, said Kohar, adding that other farm unions were free to participate in the meeting on January 3.

Kohar pointed out that Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture in its report in mid-December the SC-appointed committee in its 11-page interim report in November and PM Narendra Modi (then CM of Gujarat) as a chairman of the Central Consumer Affairs Committee in his report in 2011, had empha-

sised on the enactment of the minimum support price (MSP) guarantee law.

Besides, the Swaminathan Commission in its recommendations had also recommended fixation of the MSP as per CT+50 per cent formula, he added. He said they were just demanding enactment of the MSP guarantee law from the Centre. Lakhwinder Singh Aulakh, president, Bhartiya Kisan Ekta, Haryana, said they had received inputs that the government had been gathering forces in Punjab.

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#### POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited (hereinafter called Shubham) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon borrowers to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described hereinbelow in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited for an amount detailed below and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Details are as below:

S. No.	Loan No/Borrower(s), Co-Borrower	Demand (Rs. Amount)	Date of Demand Notice	Secured Asset	Date of Auction
1.	OKAR180300005011644, Sunil Kumar, Vikas	Rs. 2,37,295/-	23-08-2024	Property House Situated in Village Mundh Inside Lal Dora Tehsil And District Kaithal Haryana -136042	28-12-2024
2.	ISNP171000005007418, Vijender Singh, Geeta	Rs. 3,67,127/-	23-08-2024	Plot measuring 140 Square Yards, Khasra No. 254, Khata No. 273 Kila - 6 offroad measuring 51K-10M-05 Situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Gohana, Tehsil Gohana, Distt. Sonapat, Haryana-131101	28-12-2024
3.	GREW170700005037094, RAJIB, ANITA	Rs. 5,41,347/-	23-08-2024	Residential House No. 370, Admeasuring 144 Sq.Yds Lal Dora Situated in Mouja -Subana, Tehsil & District Jhajjar, Haryana-124109	28-12-2024
4.	OKAR210200005035161, KULDEEP, KAVITA	Rs. 8,36,507/-	23-08-2024	House Village Pargi Abadi Deh Under Lal Dora Tehsil and District Karnal Haryana-132001	28-12-2024
5.	OGGN220100005042916, Ram Kumar, Pindi	Rs. 9,93,867/-	22-10-2024	Property situated at Dharti Mahab Das, Baimio Basti, Tehsil & District Shiwan, Haryana-127021	28-12-2024
6.	GREW170300005004564, Sunil Sharma, Niraj Kumar	Rs. 6,34,028/-	22-10-2024	A-Class Building, Khawal No. 162, Khawal No. 185, Musti No. - 67 Kila No. 28 (2/13-3), Khat 1 Tacked 13 Khat 13 Maria 7/23 Part Bakdar 7 Maria (200 Sq.Yds), Wala Khat Tehsil Rawal, Distt. Rawer, Haryana-125001.	28-12-2024
7.	ISNP171000005009654, Ram Parkash, Indra Veli	Rs. 4,84,490/-	22-10-2024	Khawal No. 340, Khata No. 469, Kila No. 31/1/1/ 0-3 wala Roka Mouja Kund, Tehsil & Distt- Sonapat, Haryana -131028	28-12-2024
8.	ISNP161000005015465, Subhash Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Chandan, Anika Kumari, Pappu	Rs. 6,52,640/-	22-10-2024	Plot measuring 125 Sq.Yds Khawal No.689 min. Kila No.269 min Rectangle & Kila No.5/21/7-12 Situated in the Revenue Estate of Bakarpur Tehsil & Distt Sonapat Haryana -131001	28-12-2024

PLACE:- GURGAON, DATE :-31-12-2024

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## HOMAGE

Here's to an angel god sent  
So that all might dwell in his love;  
An angel who gave strength,  
Who loved unconditionally every being  
on this earth;  
Who stood by us gracefully,  
Putting joy and happiness in everything we did;  
Here's to PAPAJI, god's special angel.  
So loving and giving that we feel blessed  
and proud to be his children!

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# Erratic weather forcing shift from apple to other fruits

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**SIMLA, DECEMBER 31** Erratic weather and rising input costs are pushing apple growers into growing stone fruits like almonds, plum, apricot, cherry, etc. Another fruit that has attracted the attention of apple growers is persimmon.

Over the last few years, there has been a noticeable shift towards these fruits in the apple belts. The biggest push for diversification has come from erratic weather. The traditional apple varieties need around 800-1,200 chilling hours in winter. With the reduction in snowfall and the winter season becoming dry and warm, it is becoming increasingly tough to get the required chilling hours.

"It will be very difficult to

meet the chilling hour requirement of the traditional apple varieties in the future, especially in the mid and low apple belts. The way forward is to go for fruits that require much less chilling hours, around 300-500 hours and fruits like plums, almond, apricot and persimmon need much lesser chilling hours," said Deepak Singha, president of Stone Fruit Growers Association. "Nowonder, several apple growers have started growing these fruits along with apple, which is facing multiple challenges at the moment," he said.

Lokinder Bisht, president of the Progressive Growers Association, said the shift towards alternative fruits has begun, and it is likely to intensify in the near future. "Apart from the

erratic weather, the input cost in apple cultivation has shot through the roof, especially after Covid. The net profit in apple cultivation has reduced to below 50 per cent of the total sale. Due to erratic weather, crop failure and plant mortality is on the rise. Overall, it's becoming increasingly difficult to keep apple cultivation sustainable," said Bisht. Compared to the input cost in apple cultivation, the input cost in these fruits is significantly less.

Meanwhile, the Horticulture Department is also pushing diversification. Under the Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Development Project, planting material for fruits like almonds, apricot has been imported to push diversification in apple belts.



A worker harvests the apple crop in upper Shimla. TRIBUNE PHOTO: LALIT KUMAR

## Milk purchase to be digitised in 10 societies, says Sukhu

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**SIMLA, DECEMBER 31** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today said digitisation of milk procurement would be started in 10 societies on a pilot basis.

Presiding over a review meeting of the Animal Husbandry Department here today, he said focus must be on individual milk testing, real-time data management with web and mobile interface.

"Digitisation would ensure hassle-free and seamless operations of the milk procurement which would also go a long way in maintaining transparency," he said.

The Chief Minister also instructed to ensure GPS-enabled route tracking and optimisation for efficient milk transportation.

Sukhu said the state government is strengthening the rural economy by providing remunerative prices

to milk producers. "Himachal is the first state in the country to introduce minimum support price for milk procurement. Cow milk is being procured at Rs 45 per litre and buffalo milk at Rs 55 per litre," he said.

Sukhu said the state government would spend Rs 161.52 crore for setting up six new milk-chilling plants and milk-processing plants in the state. "A state-of-the-art fully automated milk-processing plant is being set up at Dagwar in Kangra district with 1.5 lakh litre capacity per day expandable up to 3 lakh litres," he said.

This plant will become operational in March 2026, benefitting the milk producers from Kangra, Una, Hamirpur and other neighbouring districts.

Animal Husbandry Minister Prof Chander Kumar was present at the meeting.



CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu at a review meeting of Animal Husbandry Department in Shimla on Tuesday.

## Construction of 6 Rajiv Gandhi schools begins

**SIMLA, DECEMBER 31** The construction of six Rajiv Gandhi day-boarding schools has commenced in Nagrota Bagwan, Jwalamukhi, Fatehpur, Palampur and Jai Singhpur Assembly constituencies in Kangra district, along with the Bhoranj constituency in Hamirpur district.

A government spokesperson said that these schools were being constructed in a phased manner. Each school would have a capacity to accommodate at least 1,000 students from pre-primary to class XII.

"The schools will be equipped with modern facilities such as high-tech smart classrooms, sports grounds, indoor stadiums, swimming pools, etc. These schools will significantly improve the standard of government educational institutions," said Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. He said the state government had notified 100 government high schools, 200 government senior secondary schools, 48 government colleges and two government Sanskrit colleges as 'Centres of Excellence'. — TNS

**SIMLA, DECEMBER 31** Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla has extended his wishes to the people of the state on the New Year's Eve. The Governor expressed hope that the coming year would bring abundance of good health and happiness in the lives of the people and Himachal Pradesh would witness more progress in all spheres.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu also extended his warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Himachal for the New Year. "I hope that the New Year would bring happiness, peace and prosperity to everyone's lives while propelling Himachal to new heights of progress and development," he said. — TNS

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Open Tender Notice no. ETRU-T-05-2024-25-02**

Open tender through E-tendering is invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Northern Railway, Ambala from the willing Contractors for following work on railway website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) upto 15:00 hrs. on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter:

S. No.	Open Tender No.	Name of work	Date of Closing/Opening	Approx. Cost	Estimate Money	Completion period	Validity period	Cost of tender form
1	ETRU-T-05-2024-25-02	Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 50Hz, single phase 25 KV AC OHE in old Electrification of Punjab Logistic Infrastructure Limited at Ahmedgarh station on LGH-JNL section.	22.01.2025	₹ 3,62,00,000.41/-	₹ 3,31,000/-	04 Months	60 days	NIL for downloading from REPS portal, Rs. 10,000/- For obtaining hard copy from Sr. DEE/TRD/ LMD office.

1. Tenderer(s) are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN/GSTIN as per conditions.  
2. Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in e-Tendering of Works Tenders.  
3. All Taxes i.e. GST, BCGW, Income tax etc. are applicable as per extant rule.  
4. In the work, the condition of Similar Nature Work is applicable and is as, "Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 50 Hz single phase 25 KV AC OHE".  
5. For detail, please log on REPS website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
No. ETRU-T-05-2024-25-02 Dated 31.12.2024

3967/2024

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**CHAPTER - 1**  
**CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION: JAIL DEPARTMENT**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

The e-tender is, hereby, invited from the manufacturers/suppliers for the supply of Medicines & Surgical Items for dispensary of Model Jail, Chandigarh amounting to Rs. 10.00 Lacs approximately to the Model Jail, Chandigarh through e-tender process.

I	Downloading of e-tender document	Start Date: 02.01.2025 at 10:00 a.m. End Date: 27.01.2025 at 03:00 p.m.
II	Clarification, if any	Start Date: 02.01.2025 at 10:00 a.m. End Date: 27.01.2025 at 03:00 p.m.
III	Date of submission of e-tender	Start Date: 02.01.2025 at 10:00 a.m. End Date: 27.01.2025 at 03:00 p.m.
IV	Physical submission of EMD amounting to Rs. 30,000/-	Start Date: 02.01.2025 at 10:00 a.m. End Date: 27.01.2025 at 03:00 p.m.
V	Opening of Technical Bid (online)	30.01.2025 at 12:00 Noon
VI	Opening of Price Bid of only of eligible technically qualified bidder to be determined by Purchase Committee.	To be announced after evaluating technical bid.

1. The Bid Document can be downloaded from the website <http://etenders.chd.nic.in/cigep>.  
2. All other terms and conditions, instructions to bidder regarding e-tendering process etc. may kindly be seen from the detailed Notice Inviting Tender (DNIT) available on the above noted website of Chandigarh Administration. The undersigned reserves the rights to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- Superintendent,  
Model Jail, Chandigarh.

# Displaced 45 years ago, 5 families yet to get ownership of alternative land

DIPENDER MANTA

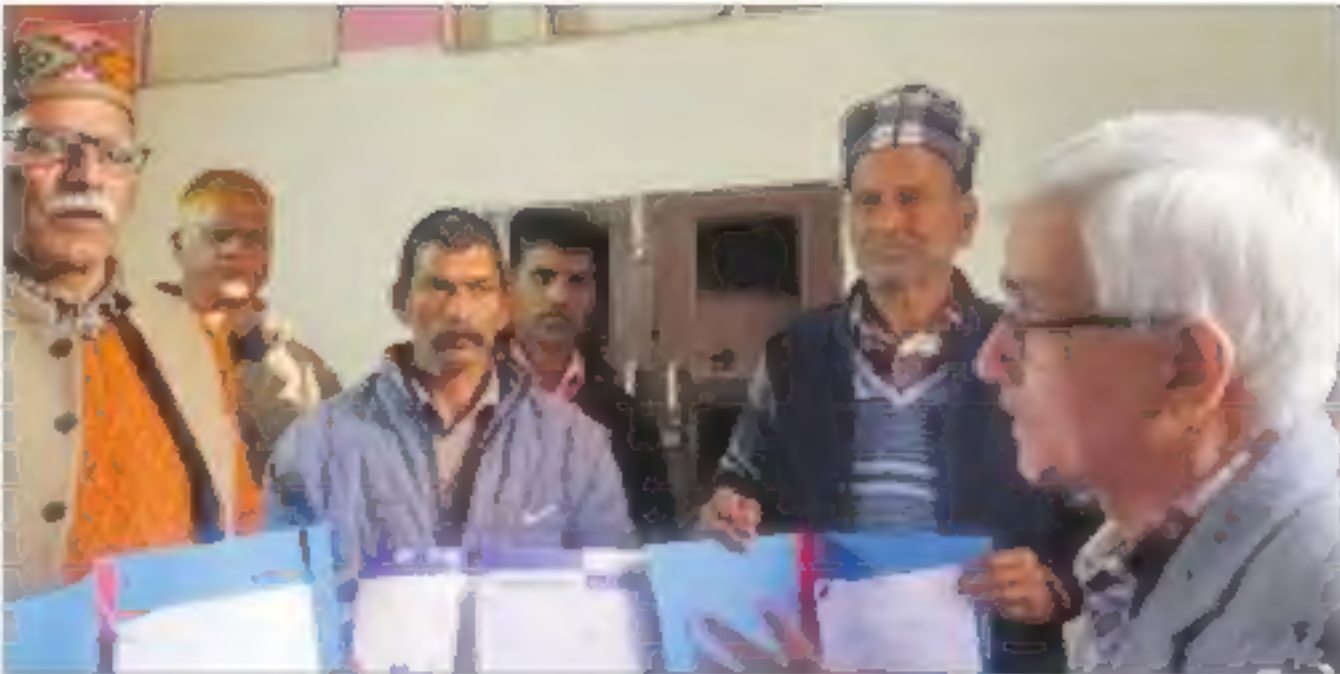
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**MANDI, DECEMBER 31** Five families from Malhanu village in Balh tehsil of Mandi district filed petitions with the Chairman of the Legislative Assembly Petition Committee in Shimla yesterday seeking ownership rights over the land that was promised to them in 1979.

The families, displaced by the Beas Sutlej Link Project, have been waiting for nearly half a century to receive formal ownership of the land granted to them in exchange for their acquired land.

The five petitioners — Shankar, Parmo Nand, Atma Ram, Balak Ram, and Mani Ram — were among the many displaced by the construction of a canal for the Beas-Sutlej Link Project.

According to these families, under a state government policy for displaced families, these individuals were allocated a total of 36 bighas. The possession of this land was officially handed over to them by Naib Tehsildar (Rehabilitation) in 1979. As part of the arrangement, the families deposited the required 'nazrana' (land fee) and com-



The displaced petitioners with lawyer BR Kondal in Mandi.

ensation for forest produce. "However, despite completing all necessary formalities, including the payment of required fee, we have been unable to secure official ownership of the land due to a delay in the sanctioning order by the Deputy Commissioner of Mandi. Although we were assured of getting ownership rights, the matter has been under the Deputy Commissioner's consideration for 45 years, with no final decision being made," claimed Shankar, Parmo Nand, Atma Ram, Balak Ram, and Mani Ram.

The Deputy Commissioner has indicated that the matter is still pending approval from the state government because there are no official documents or order available to transfer government land on the name of these affected families. However, the petitioners contend that the Deputy Commissioner has the authority to grant ownership rights under the state's policy for displaced families, and that the delay is unjustified. They said that the Sub-Divisional Officer of the area has written to the Deputy Commissioner recommend-

ing that an order be passed for the attestation of the mutation of the land, further supporting the petitioners' claim.

In response to the prolonged delay and lack of action, the families have now escalated the issue to the Legislative Assembly Petition Committee, which was recently reconstituted by the state government. The petitioners are hopeful the committee would facilitate a resolution, avoiding the need for a legal battle.

BR Kondal, a legal expert, who has been assisting the petitioners, expressed frustration over the inaction of

the administration, calling the 45-year delay a clear sign of bureaucratic neglect. Kondal said that with the reconstitution of the Petition Committee, there is renewed hope that the families may finally get justice without the need for a court case.

If the committee fails to address their concerns, the petitioners have expressed their intention to approach the Himachal Pradesh High Court.

Deputy Commissioner, Mandi, Apoorv Devgan said that "this matter is under my consideration. These affected families could not produce any old official order or any other official records regarding allocation of government land to them, which is a major hurdle to give ownership of government land to them. However in 2018, then DC Mandi raised this issue with the state government. I am trying to find a solution for it at the earliest, but without proper official record, it is not possible to transfer forest land in the name of these affected families. We are trying to find old official records to resolve this issue."

## Sukhu launches 'Har Din Sehat' drive in Shimla

SIMLA, DECEMBER 31

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the 'Har Din Sehat' campaign here today. He said this health awareness programme aims to promote a culture of health consciousness and disease prevention among the people of Himachal.

Under this campaign, students of the Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla, and Sister Nivedita Nursing College will organise health talks at various places to raise awareness about adopting a healthy lifestyle. These activities will be conducted in different wards and OPDs of

IGMC Shimla as well as public places under the Shimla MC. The CM said the campaign's objective is to prevent diseases, increasing awareness about government health facilities and encouraging effective utilisation of health services and schemes. — TNS

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**TENDER NOTICE**

1. Army Public School Kapurthala invites quotations for **SYNTHETIC COATING OF BASKET BALL COURT.**  
2. Tender document to be collected from School Office on any working day (0900 - 1500hrs) on cash payment of Rs 500/-. In case of any query email at [apskapurthala@awesindia.edu.in](mailto:apskapurthala@awesindia.edu.in).  
School management has the right to cancel the project/procurement without any advance notice and without any compensation to the bidders. Last date & time for submission of bids **25 Jan 2025 (1500 hrs).**  
**Sd/-Principal**

## ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਉਪ ਮੰਡਲ ਮੈਜਿਸਟਰੇਟ, ਮੁਕੇਰੀਆਂ

ਨੋਟੀਫਿਕੇਸ਼ਨ 20 ਦੇ ਨੰਬਰ 1884 (E) ਮਿਤੀ 10.04.2023 ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਪਿੰਡ ਭੰਗਲਾ, ਮੰਜ ਕਾਲਾ, ਰਲਵੰਡੀ ਕਲਾ ਅਤੇ ਮੁਜਾਹਿਬਪੁਰ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਮੁਕੇਰੀਆਂ, ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਹੁਸ਼ਿਆਰਪੁਰ ਵਿਚ ਹੇਠਲੇ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਲਈ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਐਕੁਆਇਰ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਪਿੰਡਾਂ ਦੇ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਮਾਲਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮੁਆਵਜ਼ਾ ਦੇਣ ਲਈ ਤਹਿਸੀਲਦਾਰ, ਮੁਕੇਰੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਕੁਲੈਕਟਰ/ਡਾਟ ਰੋਟ ਮਿਤੀ 01.04.2023 ਤੋਂ 10.04.2024 ਤੱਕ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਹਨ, ਜਿਸ ਦਾ ਵੇਰਵਾ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਪਿੰਡ ਭੰਗਲਾ, ਮੰਜ ਕਾਲਾ, ਰਲਵੰਡੀ ਕਲਾ ਅਤੇ ਮੁਜਾਹਿਬਪੁਰ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਮੁਕੇਰੀਆਂ ਲਈ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਵਿਸਮਵਾਰ ਫੇਟ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਹਨ:-

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ.	ਵਿਸਮ ਰਕਬਾ	ਫੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਮਰਲਾ	ਫੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਏਕੜ
1	(ਦੇ ਕਿੱਲੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ) ਚਾਹੀ/ਨਹਿਰੀ/ਬਰਾਨੀ	12500/-	20,00000/-
2	ਆਬਾਦੀ	84100/-	—
3	ਵਪਾਰਕ	305673/-	—
4	ਗੈਰ ਨਾਲਾ/ਨਹਿਰ	12500/-	20,00000/-
5	ਮੋਨ ਰੋਡ ਤੋਂ 2.2 ਕਿੱਲੋ ਅੰਦਰ	34712/-	6553900/-

ਪਿੰਡ ਮੰਜ ਕਾਲਾ

ਇਸ ਪਿੰਡ ਦੀ ਐਕੁਆਇਰ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਦੀ ਵਿਸਮ ਚਾਹੀ/ਨਹਿਰੀ/ ਗੈਰਮੁਰਸ਼ਾ/ਬਰਾਨੀ ਵਿਸਮ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਪਿੰਡ ਨੂੰ ਗੈਰ ਰਸਤੇ ਨੂੰ ਕੁਲੈਕਟਰ ਰੋਟ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਜਾਣੇ ਯੋਗ ਹਨ। ਵਿਸਮ ਚਾਹੀ/ਨਹਿਰੀ/ਬਰਾਨੀ ਨੂੰ ਡਾਟ/ਕੁਲੈਕਟਰ ਰੋਟ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋਣੇ ਹਨ, ਜੋ ਕਿ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਜਾਣੇ ਯੋਗ ਹਨ:-

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ.	ਵਿਸਮ ਰਕਬਾ	ਫੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਮਰਲਾ	ਫੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਏਕੜ
1	(ਦੇ ਕਿੱਲੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ) ਚਾਹੀ/ਨਹਿਰੀ/ਬਰਾਨੀ	19004/-	3168640/-
2	ਗੈਰ ਰਸਤਾ	17356	2777030/-
3	ਆਬਾਦੀ	105140	—
4	ਵਪਾਰਕ	291735	—

ਪਿੰਡ ਰਲਵੰਡੀ ਕਲਾ

ਇਸ ਪਿੰਡ ਦੀ ਐਕੁਆਇਰ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਦੀ ਵਿਸਮ ਚਾਹੀ/ਗੈਰ ਆਬਾਦੀ, ਗੈਰ ਨਾਲਾ ਅਤੇ ਵਰਕਸ਼ਾਪ/ਵਪਾਰਕ ਵਿਸਮ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਇਸ ਪਿੰਡ ਨੂੰ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਵਿਸਮਵਾਰ ਕੁਲੈਕਟਰ ਰੋਟ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਜਾਣੇ ਯੋਗ ਹਨ:-

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ.	ਵਿਸਮ ਰਕਬਾ	ਫੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਮਰਲਾ	ਫੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਏਕੜ
1	(ਦੇ ਕਿੱਲੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ) ਚਾਹੀ/ਨਹਿਰੀ	9467/-	1514700/-
2	ਆਬਾਦੀ	37890/-	—
3	ਵਪਾਰਕ	50500/-	—
4	ਗੈਰ ਨਾਲਾ	9467/-	1514700/-
5	ਮੋਨ ਰੋਡ ਤੋਂ 2.2 ਕਿੱਲੋ ਅੰਦਰ	36816/-	5890500/-

ਇਸ ਪਿੰਡ ਵਿਚ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਤਹਿਸੀਲਦਾਰ ਮੁਕੇਰੀਆਂ ਰਕਬਾ ਮੋਨ ਰੋਡ ਤੋਂ 2.2 ਕਿੱਲੋ ਦੇ ਵਿਚ ਆਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ। 2.2 ਕਿੱਲੋ ਵਿਚ ਆਉਂਦੇ ਰਕਬੇ ਨੂੰ 5890500 ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਏਕੜ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਣਾ ਯੋਗ ਹੈ।

ਪਿੰਡ ਮੁਜਾਹਿਬਪੁਰ

ਇਸ ਪਿੰਡ ਵਿਚ ਐਕੁਆਇਰ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਰਕਬਾ ਦੀ ਵਿਸਮ ਚਾਹੀ/ਬਰਾਨੀ ਅਤੇ ਗੈਰ ਮੁਮਕਿਨ ਰਸਤਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਇਸ ਪਿੰਡ ਨੂੰ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਵਿਸਮਵਾਰ ਰੋਟ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਜਾਣੇ ਯੋਗ ਹਨ:-

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ.	ਵਿਸਮ ਰਕਬਾ	ਫੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਮਰਲਾ	ਫੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਏਕੜ
1	(ਦੇ ਕਿੱਲੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ) ਚਾਹੀ/ਨਹਿਰੀ/ਬਰਾਨੀ	30359/-	4857440/-
2	ਗੈਰ ਰਸਤਾ	10519/-	1683000/-
3	2.2 ਕਿੱਲੋ ਅੰਦਰ ਰਕਬਾ ਮੋਨ ਰੋਡ ਤੋਂ	36816/-	5890500/-
4	ਵਪਾਰਕ	54700/-	—
5	ਆਬਾਦੀ	48231/-	—

ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਪਿੰਡਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਵਿਸਮਵਾਰ ਰੋਟਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਐਕਟ ਦੀ ਧਾਰਾ 20F ਦੀ ਧਾਰਾ 1989 (4) ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਮਾਲਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਜਾਣ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਦੋ ਅਖਬਾਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਪਬਲਿਸ਼ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਣਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਇਹ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਪਿੰਡਾਂ ਦੇ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਮਾਲਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਣਾ ਹੈ।

ਮਿਤੀ:

ਸਹੀ/- ਉਪ ਮੰਡਲ ਮੈਜਿਸਟਰੇਟ-ਕਮ-  
ਲੈਂਡ ਐਕੁਈਜ਼ਿਸ਼ਨ ਕੁਲੈਕਟਰ,  
ਰਲਵੰਡੀ, ਮੁਕੇਰੀਆਂ।



## The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

### Looking ahead

Farmers, Centre must find common ground

AS the dawn of 2025 brings hopes for change, Punjab's farmers must reflect on their strategies and open the door for constructive dialogue with the Centre. The year gone by, marked by relentless protests and the steadfast hunger strike of Jagjit Singh Dallewal for over a month now, has highlighted the farmers' demands — some just and deserving, but others simply blackmail. However, the frequent bandhs and road and rail blocks have also significantly disrupted public life, testing the patience of the very people whose support they depend upon. The peasants' commitment to their cause is undeniable. The success of the latest Punjab bandh on Monday underscored solidarity within the state, but at a steep cost — railway cancellations, road closures and economic disruptions. Such methods risk alienating broader public sympathy. Prolonged stalemates only exacerbate frustrations on all sides, delaying solutions that could address genuine grievances.

The Centre, too, must adopt a more empathetic approach, shedding bureaucratic inertia. Invitations for talks should not be viewed as concessions but as avenues to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. The Supreme Court's involvement has spotlighted the urgency of resolving these issues, but judicial mandates alone cannot heal the growing rift between the state and its agrarian backbone.

Punjab's dominant agrarian economy forms the backbone of the nation's food security. However, its farmers remain mired in challenges like diminishing returns, rising debts and an overdependence on wheat and paddy as also land degradation and desertification. Collaborations with policy experts, agricultural economists and political stakeholders could pave the way for innovative solutions, whether in agro-industrial integration or financial safeguards for the peasants. The new year must signal an end to hardened positions. By embracing dialogue and pragmatism, Punjab's cultivators and the Centre can together lay the groundwork for lasting agricultural prosperity and societal harmony.

## Children in peril

Kapurthala trafficking case a wake-up call

A country aspiring to become 'Viksit' (developed) by 2047 has a job to do right now — protect its children from traffickers and middlemen. Otherwise, these kids — the nation's future — would be left psychologically scarred for life. A horrifying case has been reported from Punjab's Kapurthala district. Eleven children, now rescued by the police, were made to work on a potato farm as enslaved labourers. Two agents who allegedly trafficked the children from Bihar are also accused of sexually abusing one of them and pushing her into prostitution.

The incident has come to light days after a businessman running a packaging company in Maharashtra's Thane district was booked for allegedly making children work as labourers. Unfortunately, kids remain vulnerable to exploitation even though there are myriad laws aimed at ensuring deterrence. The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits the employment of children below 14 years in any occupation; those in the age group of 14 to 18 years cannot be forced to work in hazardous occupations where their health and safety are at risk. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act have strict provisions as well, but enforcement leaves a lot to be desired.

Timely response to complaints about child labour holds the key to curbing this scourge. Synergy between Central and state governments — and among the states too — is another prerequisite. In many cases, it's poverty that drives parents to take desperate measures. They force their kids into labour to support the family; this not only disrupts the children's studies but also exposes them to the big, bad world. Targeted welfare schemes must go hand in hand with efforts to strengthen the justice delivery system. Let no one's childhood be ruined, for that would be a great loss to the entire nation.

ON THIS DAY...50 YEARS AGO

## The Tribune.

CHANDIGARH, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1975

### Books for the masses

WHETHER the public can be made book-minded by the sale of books through post offices and petrol pumps, as suggested by Information and Broadcasting Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, is doubtful. The proposition is as unreal as the question whether sophistication can be injected among those living in sub-human and squalid conditions. Why the minister has petrol pumps in mind for the promotion of books is difficult to say. Maybe, he wants to compensate them for the reduced oil demand after the recent price hikes. The reading habit is something that grows with literacy and the purchasing power of people. It is a habit that partly comes naturally and is partly acquired. In the prevailing struggle for survival, the educated Indian is hardly left with any money to satisfy his thirst for knowledge. Whatever little urge lingers is finished because of the high prices of books. So the simple remedy for promoting the reading habit lies in the production of cheap and good quality books. This is a challenge to publishers and the government as well as to the creative authors in English, Hindi and regional languages. Apart from the lack of initiative and honesty, there has been much lopsided thinking in the book publishing field at all levels. The publisher's main interest is to make a quick buck, often at the cost of authors and readers. The government, on its part, has made matters worse by haphazard bans on the import of books. True, foreign exchange is precious and has to be saved for crude and all that. But then the inadequacies of our books programme cannot be taken care of by slogan-mongering.

# Time ripe for bold economic reforms

The 2025-26 Budget should be used as a launch pad for special initiatives



SUSHMA RAMACHANDRAN  
SENIOR FINANCIAL JOURNALIST

THE new year has arrived with many challenges on the economic horizon. The one that looms most darkly is the geopolitical turmoil prevailing in several parts of the world. Another one is the inauguration of Donald Trump as US President and the multifarious concerns over policy changes by the global economic superpower. These will have a broad international impact, but there will also be outcomes for India.

On the domestic front, all eyes will be on the new head of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Sanjay Malhotra, and his approach to inflation and growth. And as the Modi government prepares to present the second Budget of its third term, it will have to deepen reforms in order to slash the regulatory cholesterol that is clogging the route to higher economic growth.

The way forward must be viewed in the sombre context of the passing of several luminaries critically involved in the country's economic development. The most significant loss has been that of the architect of the 1991 economic reforms, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The late Osamu Suzuki, long-time chairman of Japan's Suzuki Motor Company, took a bet on the over-regulated Indian economy in the mid-1980s. The gamble not only paid off for the company, but it also became the catalyst for the development of an automobile industry which now accounts for over 40 per cent of the manufacturing sector.

For the domestic industry,



PRIORITY: It is imperative to give a push to investments in all segments of the economy. **AN**

the biggest blow came in October when corporate titan Ratan Tata breathed his last. The unlikely, soft-spoken successor to the flamboyant JRD ended up galvanising and expanding the house of Tatas to make it the largest conglomerate in the country.

These giants in the economic and business arena contributed to the current status of India as the fastest-growing major economy in the world. Yet, as one looks ahead, there are worries that this pace may not be maintained in 2025. From 8.2 per cent growth in 2023-24, the current fiscal's figure is likely to be lower. The second quarter — July to September — recorded a seven-month low of 4.5 per cent. Though there are expectations of a pickup in the third quarter along with reports of reviving consumption, the economy continues to face headwinds. The most worrying of these is the prospect of an escalation in geopolitical tensions. The Ukraine-Russia war proceeds relentlessly and the downing of an Azerbaijani airline indicates that these hostilities will continue to have ramifications for the rest of the world.

As for the Gaza conflict, it has not had widespread economic

The pace of cutting down regulations and procedures at the Central and state levels must be stepped up.

repercussions so far, but has the potential to create even more havoc. So far, the hostilities have extended to Lebanon and Iran, though in a limited manner. In case the latter becomes embroiled in a wider way, it would have a direct impact on energy prices and availability. Attacks on Iran's oil and gas production or storage facilities are bound to have a bearing on international prices. Currently, oil markets are in the grip of

bearish trends and prices of the benchmark Brent crude are hovering around \$72-74 per barrel. But this situation could alter dramatically if the conflict widens to neighbouring West Asian countries that are oil producers. This could lead to a spike in oil prices, which would, in turn, have an immediate fallout here in terms of pushing up the oil import bill, while simultaneously raising inflationary pressures.

Another concern is the impact of tariff barriers sought to be imposed by the incoming Trump administration. Though the actual contours of his new trade policy are yet to be unveiled, he has declared that reciprocity would be a major element in formulating tariff proposals. While his greatest ire has been reserved for China and there have even been threats of levying up to 60 per cent import duties, he has also been sharply critical of India's high tariff barriers. For this country, it means that the creeping increase in import duties over the past two years may have to be halted or even reversed as otherwise Indian goods may end up being uncompetitive in the lucrative American market. The worries

on this score are justified as Trump has described India as "a very big abuser of tariffs" and stressed that such taxes will invite reciprocity.

On the plus side, the easing of protectionist tendencies is only for the good. On the negative side, it is not yet known whether the new Trump administration will enable Indian goods to have an edge in the US market vis-à-vis other countries like China. Much will depend on the final shape of trade policies formulated by the new administration.

As for raising the pace of growth, the role of the new RBI chief will be critical. His approach to the entire 'inflation versus growth' conundrum is eagerly awaited in the run-up to the next monetary policy committee meeting. A lot will depend on whether inflation continues to moderate in the coming months. It has already cooled down to 5.48 per cent in November along with a dip in food inflation, raising hopes of a rate cut that would give an impetus to investment and growth.

The next big policy push of the government will be outlined in the upcoming Budget. This might be a coalition government, but major constituents like the Telugu Desam Party have been in favour of reforms. It would thus be the right time to step up the pace of cutting down regulations and procedures at the Central and state levels. The complexity of rules related to labour and land use are major hurdles for foreign and domestic investors. A new wave of reforms in this direction is needed to give a push to investments in all segments of the economy.

The 2025-26 Budget should be used as a launch pad for such measures. These should be viewed in the backdrop of the growing recognition that without bold policies, it will not be possible to raise growth to the level of 8-9 per cent. One can only hope the new year ushers in such fresh initiatives.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

My motto is — trade, not aid. Aid is a crutch. Trade builds pride. — PV Narasimha Rao

## India Gate missing its heartbeat

AIR VICE MARSHAL MANMOHAN BAHADUR (RETD)

THE 1971 war marked the coming of age of the Indian military after the fiasco of 1962 and a significant improvement witnessed during the 1965 war. The Amar Jawan Jyoti was installed at India Gate in New Delhi. It served as a reminder of the deeds of brave Indians. There was live telecast of the Prime Minister paying homage to them every year before the Republic Day parade. India Gate became synonymous with the Amar Jawan and became a part of folk culture. The lay citizen came to pay respects and thereafter took in the unique festive environment that had evolved after the commissioning of the 'eternal flame'.

Children played merrily, balloon sellers peddled their wares and tourists clicked pictures with India Gate and its 'eternal flame' in the background. Movies were shot there, and the patriotic feelings of citizens found a unique way of expression. Remember the popular song 'Apni toh paathshala, masti ki paathshala...' from the cult movie 'Rang De Basanti', in which a group of youngsters drive around the India Gate, saluting the 'eternal flame'?

The commemoration of the 1971 war now happens at the National War Memorial (NWM), as the 'eternal flame' of India Gate has been moved and merged with the 'eternal flame' at the NWM. The war memorial is all-encompassing and does justice to Indians who made the supreme sacrifice in every war since Independence. Their names are etched in its hallowed portals, and one cannot but get emotional seeing their near and dear ones in tears on spotting their names — what memories and thoughts must be passing through their minds.

On this Vijay Diwas, too, wreaths were laid at the war memorial by representatives of a grateful nation. The same would have happened at India Gate also if the 'eternal flame' was present there. An added advantage would have been that the common man, too, would have got a chance to pay his respects due to its easy accessibility to one and all — something missing in the NWM due to its location. Be that as it may, the solemnity of Vijay Diwas is not reduced one bit by the site of the commemorative place — it is just that India Gate had a 'common man feel'.

So, as the nation commemorated the iconic happening on December 16, this writer, who was a Class XI student 53 years ago, could not but remember being glued to All India Radio and listening to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi inform the world, "Dacca is the free capital of a free country." Little did she realise that India Gate's 'eternal flame' would imbue that World War I monument with a nationalistic cult status — and a unique 'India Gate feeling' that, alas, is now missing.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Insult to ex-PM's memory

Refer to 'Disgraceful row', the editorial is a rebuke to the politicians who are insulting the memory of Dr Manmohan Singh. The conduct of the ruling party and the Opposition is equally disgraceful. The seeds of economic reforms were sown by him and everyone is reaping the benefits today. Politicians from Punjab are crying foul over the lack of proper honour given to Dr Singh during his last journey, but none of them could find a parliamentary seat for him in the state (he served as a member of the Rajya Sabha from Assam and Rajasthan). He wasn't an accidental Prime Minister but an accidental politician and it is difficult for any academician of his merit to withstand political turbulence.

ONKAR SINGH PARMAR, LUDHIANA

#### Dr Singh's visionary leadership

Apologies of 'The man who made the middle class affluent', Dr Manmohan Singh's tenure was a transformative period for India's middle class. His economic policies not only tripled their average income but also elevated their standard of living, aspirations and global competitiveness. This was a golden era for professionals and the managerial class as opportunities abounded and they flourished. As India continues to grapple with economic challenges, the legacy of Dr Singh serves as a reminder of the power of visionary leadership and the importance of policies that prioritise growth with inclusivity. For the middle class, his decade of leadership remains a landmark.

GAURAV BADHWAR, ROHTAK

#### Magnet to draw top talent

With reference to 'H-1B visa issue', both President-elect Trump and Elon Musk had weighed in for quality immigration by declaring their support for H-1B visas that would let in talented programmers and other white-collar workers. Musk had even described H-1B as a magnet to draw top talented engineers. Immigration was among the most contentious issues in the presidential election, and Trump's strong stance against illegal migrants may have helped him emerge victorious. The H-1B visa regime is meant to provide avenues for companies to hire skilled labour. The government must not sit by amid the rising hostility towards Indians.

SK SINGH, BY MAIL

#### Leaders must address issues

Refer to 'Trump's threats portend turbulence', while his approach seeks to redefine trade policies in favour of the US, it risks undermining global stability and economic partnerships. His aggressive rhetoric could alienate allies, isolating the US on the global stage. India must tread cautiously, balancing its interests while navigating the changing dynamics. Trump's unpredictable policies might offer opportunities for growth in bilateral trade but could also lead to unforeseen challenges. The world must strive for collaboration, not unilateralism, to address pressing issues like economic inequality and geopolitical tensions. A focus on dialogue, mutual respect and sustainable development is the need of the hour.

ANUPAM MEHNDIRATTA, CHANDIGARH

#### Trump is disrupting trade norms

Apologies of 'Trump's threats portend turbulence', Donald Trump's use of tariffs to pressure allies like Canada, Denmark and Panama is troubling. Such actions reflect an expansionist policy aimed at achieving geopolitical objectives through economic coercion rather than diplomacy. Threatening Canada over trade disputes, Panama for its strategic importance and Denmark for rejecting the sale of Greenland undermines trust among long-standing allies and disrupts global trade norms. This approach risks destabilising international relations, prioritising dominance over cooperation. It is crucial for global institutions to counter these aggressive tactics and uphold the principles of mutual respect and fairness.

SALBIR SINGH KAKKAR, JALANDHAR

#### World needs leaders like Carter

Refer to 'Jimmy focussed more on doing good than on doing well', Jimmy Carter was committed to the principles of peace, diplomacy and international cooperation. He worked to eradicate disease, forge peace, advance civil and human rights, promote free and fair elections and shelter the homeless. He saved and changed the lives of people all across the globe. Leaders like Carter alone can save the world from the humanitarian catastrophe triggered by the Gaza conflict and the Ukraine-Russia war. No solution seems to be in the offing as global leaders no longer believe in resolving conflicts through diplomacy. His death is a huge loss to humanity at large.

ROSHAN LAL GOEL, LADWA



# OPED

## Self-punishment politics in Tamil Nadu



SOUTH SIDE  
NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN

A Sa form of political practice, the threat or act of self-punishment has a long and dubious tradition in Tamil Nadu. No political leader has self-immolated or threatened to do so yet, but there was this minister in Jayalithaa's Cabinet, a karate champion, who tied himself to a cross and reportedly had nails hammered into his palm for a few minutes to demonstrate his loyalty to her. Others in her Cabinet are known to have carried pots of burning coals. A woman minister, wearing a skirt of neem leaves, rolled on the ground in the precincts of a temple. Entertaining as all this is, it's not clear if such acts ever impressed the intended audience. So, when K Annamalai, president of the Tamil Nadu unit of the BJP, decided to whip himself in protest against the sexual assault of a student at Anna University, sure enough, social media audiences brought out the popcorn (salted only) for the meme fest that followed. But no words of sympathy or fellow feeling came from the divided house that the Tamil

Nadu BJP is. One rival within suggested that it would have been more appropriate for Annamalai to have been given a few lashes by party leaders in Delhi. No words of support whatsoever came from the high command. As it seeks to make a dent in Tamil Nadu's Dravidian armour, the BJP has tried various ploys. The charge of atheism and "anti-Sanatani" tops the list. But, as the last parliamentary elections showed, that failed to win a single seat for the BJP, with the DMK sweeping up all 39 seats. Even Annamalai, despite the build-up he got from national television channels, could not win the Coimbatore seat. For sure, the party got its highest ever vote share of 11.38 per cent. But this was also the first time it had contested more than half the seats in the state, in alliance with the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) and a break-away group of the AIADMK. With the PMK leadership's father-son troubles coming to the fore in a very public way, the future of this caste-based party's alliance with Hindutva is uncertain. Simply put, nothing, including the search for the right alliance partners, has worked for the BJP in Tamil Nadu. The AIADMK has held back steadfastly. Elections are still months away — due only in May 2026. But the word is that AIADMK boss



PLOV: K Annamalai whipped himself in protest against the sexual assault of a student.

Edappadi Palaniswami has already made a preliminary approach to actor Vijay, the latest entrant on the block and a megastar with a fan following that does not have to be paid to attend public rallies. Some within the BJP believe that it was a mistake not to weaponise the 'vetrai illai' or two leaves symbol against the AIADMK after it was frozen in 2017 in the wake of post-Jayalithaa splits in the party. Some wonder why the threat or promise of the famed BJP 'washing machine' has not yet been deployed in this state. Trying to turn the Anna University rape case into a political storm, Kolkata style, was a gamble. The alleged rape of a stu-

Whipping oneself is no act of Hindu penance in Tamil Nadu, as some admirers up north have sought to describe it.

dent of Anna University in Chennai took place on December 24 when the woman was in the company of a male college mate in a secluded corner of the campus. The alleged rapist was known to the local police as a "history-sheeter", but he seems to have had a free pass into the prestigious institution. He threatened the male companion into leaving the place and proceeded to assault the woman, videoed his crime and threatened her with blackmail. If the security measures at the university were found wanting, the police did not cover themselves in glory either. The First Information Report was uploaded and made accessible to the public, with the victim's name,

her address and contact details. The manner in which the FIR is worded questions the training of the police personnel at the all-woman police station where the woman made the complaint. Shocking as this is, let's face it, Tamil Nadu is not a state with a high incidence of crimes against women. And, the BJP which rules states like Uttarakhand and Haryana where the incidence of such crimes far outstrips the national rate, can hardly point a finger. Even BJP insiders here say they have no answer when they are asked why the PM has not visited Manipal yet. The surfacing of a photograph of the accused with Udhayanidhi Stalin, the newly anointed Deputy Chief Minister and second-generation DMK first family dynast, may have given the BJP and the AIADMK confidence that they had enough ammunition to mount a direct attack. But the Madras High Court's swift order on petitions by AIADMK party members demanding that the case be transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation doused the attempt to turn this into a political conflagration for the DMK. The high court directed the setting up of a Special Investigation Team to probe the crime and bring it to prosecution, and the police to pay Rs 25 lakh to the victim for making her identity

public. It asked Anna University to bear the full cost of her further education at the institute. While Annamalai charged that the state had become unsafe for women and announced that he was taking up the case as the 'brother' of the woman who had been assaulted, the woman herself was confident enough to take her complaint to the police the very next day, with a university official by her side. For Annamalai, back from a sabbatical at Oxford University where he went after the BJP's anticlimactic Lok Sabha elections, his failure to whip Tamil Nadu into a frenzy with his self-flagellation is hardly the comeback he might have hoped for. In any case, whipping oneself is no act of Hindu penance in Tamil Nadu, as some admirers up north have sought to describe it. Lord Muruga's bhaktas will hang from hooks, skewer their bodies and cheeks with spears and walk over burning coals. But whipping one's own body is known only as a practice among itinerant alma-seekers. Annamalai, who also announced that he would observe a fast for 48 days and eschew footwear until the DMK was defeated, may be better off eating proper meals and putting his sandals back on for the BJP's rocky journey ahead in Tamil Nadu.

## Why a better understanding of First Amendment is needed



AJAY K MEHRA  
POLITICAL SCIENTIST

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi opened the discussion in the Lok Sabha on 75 years of the Constitution on December 14, 2024, by criticising India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru for bringing the first constitutional amendment even before the first Lok Sabha was elected. Modi said: "This country didn't have an elected government from 1947 to 1952. A temporary system, a selected government was in place. Elections were not held. An interim government was in place until the elections. Before 1952, the Rajya Sabha was also not formed. There were no elections in states as well." The Prime Minister is partially right. The first amendment of the Constitution was passed by the provisional parliament before the first General Election was held. Was it Nehru's preciptious move to bring this amendment in May-June 1951, or was it a rational decision taken by the Cabinet? Law

Minister BR Ambedkar was still in the Cabinet and his ministry must have drafted it in consultation with him. The government in place from 1947-52 faced constitutional roadblocks as the judiciary intervened in some crucial cases. The cases included those relating to making special provisions for protective discrimination [Article 15(3)], freedom of speech [Article 19(1a)] in *Romesh Thappar vs the State of Madras* case on May 26, 1950, and carrying forward several of its initiatives relating to the abolition of the zamindari system (Article 31) in order to fulfil its promises to the people of India. Thus, the "right to hold, acquire or dispose of the property" was a crucial one that the government thought would have to be balanced with prominence to the community rights of social and economic equality. The substance of the First Amendment to the Indian Constitution dealt with the fundamental right to property enshrined in Articles 19(1)(f) and 31. The Bill was introduced on May 12, 1951, and enacted on June 18, 1951, even before the elections for the first Lok Sabha were held (on April 17, 1952) and the Rajya Sabha was constituted. On September 10, 1949, amendments to draft Arti-



BEFORE FIRST ELECTION: The Bill for the First Amendment to the Indian Constitution was introduced on May 12, 1951, and enacted a month later.

cle 24 (Article 31) were discussed. Nehru moved the amendment stating that the possession of private property was given the protection of 'authority of law'. Any 'compulsory' acquisition of property for public purposes must have 'compensation' — a specified amount — or the principles on which and the manner in which the compensation is to be determined have to be built into the law authorising acquisition. He was absolutely clear that "there is no question of any expropriation without compensation so far as this Constitution is concerned". These conditions would be applied both to the Union and state governments. He

The Nehru-led government, in place from 1947-52, faced constitutional roadblocks as the judiciary intervened in crucial cases.

did not see any conflict between "individual right to property and the community's interest in that property or the community's right". He explained that the amendment he moved reassures acquisition and maintenance of private property, but he appeared to foresee the need for acquisition of small or big chunks of private property for community purposes. In his view, the rights, the interests and welfare of the community override the individual rights. He asserted the authority of Parliament, not of the judiciary, to fix the principles to be laid down for a fair payment of compensation: "Parliament fixes

either the compensation itself or the principles governing that compensation and they should not be challenged except for one reason, where it is thought that there has been a gross abuse of the law, where in fact there has been a fraud on the Constitution. Naturally the judiciary comes in to see that any Parliament representing the entire community of the nation will certainly not commit a fraud on its own Constitution and will be very much concerned with doing justice to the individual as well as the community." (CAD, Book No. 4, Vol. IX, p. 1195). Thus, a large part of the letter and substance of Nehru's draft for Article 24 was incorporated in the Constitution as Article 31, guaranteeing private property to the citizens of India. Speaking strongly for abolishing the zamindari system, Nehru stated: "It has been... the old policy of the... Congress... that the zamindari institution in India... must be abolished. So far as we are concerned... shall give effect to that pledge naturally completely... and no change is going to come in our way... Within limits no judge and no Supreme Court can make itself a third chamber. No Supreme Court and no judiciary can stand in Judgement over the sovereign

will of the Parliament representing the will of the entire community." (p. 1197). Thus, during the course of the presentation of the amendment that led to the finalisation of Article 31, the stage was set for the First Amendment. Both the content and substance of the arguments presented by Nehru made it clear that community interest within the boundaries of 'fair compensation' will prevail. Another important reason for the First Amendment was to 'qualify' the freedom of speech and expression as the executive orders for banning the *Cross Roads*, that Romesh Thappar edited, were shot down. As the Nehru government had taken exception to the *Organiser*, a publication of the RSS, that had been publishing articles against Pakistan that were communal in nature and were affecting the community relations in the country, it came under pressure regarding the *Cross Roads*, too. The First Amendment added 'public order', 'incitement to an offence' and 'friendly relations with foreign states' to the already existing grounds of restriction in Article 19(2). Since the *Organiser* came under its ambit, the Prime Minister's ire is understandable. Indeed, we need a better understanding of the First Amendment.

QUICK CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

ACROSS

1 Intense (5)

8 Suffer humiliation (4,4)

9 Tremble (5)

10 Tactfully ascertain views of (5,3)

11 Well-defined (5)

12 Special aptitude (3)

16 Happy (6)

17 An excursion (6)

18 Dried grass as fodder (3)

23 Solidarity of purpose (5)

24 Biased (3-5)

25 Express readiness (5)

26 Flatter grossly (6,2)

27 Proceed aimlessly (5)

DOWN

2 Understood what was meant (6,2)

3 Become established (4,4)

4 Good name (6)

5 River of Paris (5)

6 More important (5)

7 Author of Ode to a Nightingale (5)

12 Tree of olive family (3)

13 To trifle (3)

14 Represent (5,3)

15 Intrinsically (2,6)

19 Wide street (6)

20 Uncertainty (5)

21 Small-minded (5)

22 Split by force (5)

Yesterday's solution

Across: 1 Carbon copy, 6 Nail, 10 Guilt, 11 Anomalous, 12 Meaning, 13 Deter, 15 Average, 17 Devious, 19 Related, 21 Parlour, 22 Hoard, 24 Simulated, 27 Negotiate, 28 Trial, 29 Even, 30 In one piece.

Down: 1 Cogs, 2 Raise hell, 3 Often, 4 Chalice, 5 Proceed, 7 Adopt, 8 Last resort, 9 Hand over, 14 Fair chance, 16 Antidote, 18 On one side, 20 Disdain, 21 Pattern, 23 Argue, 25 Act up, 26 Flue.

SU DO KU

2 1 5 6

3 1

7 6 2 4 9 4

2 8

8 1 5 3

3 9 8

6 7 3 5 2

MEDIUM

FORECAST

WEDNESDAY 17.33 WRS

THURSDAY 07.26 WRS

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	14	10
New Delhi	17	08
Amritsar	15	10
Bathinda	15	08
Jalandhar	15	10
Ludhiana	15	08
Bhivani	17	07
Hisar	16	07
Sirsa	18	07
Dharmsala	20	05
Manali	12	02
Shimla	15	06
Srinagar	06	-02
Jammu	20	06
Kargil	0	-13
Leh	01	-10
Dehradun	23	10
Mussoorie	17	06



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I, Ashok Kumar Dhalwal S/o Nafe Singh Dhalwal R/o House No. 1870, Ground Floor, Co-Operative Housing Society, Near PCA Stadium, Sector 64, SAS Nagar, Mohali (PB) 160062, have changed my name from Ashok Kumar Dhalwal to Ashok Kumar Dhalwal. All concerned please note. (CL24089051)

I, Lata Rani Dhalwal W/o Ashok Kumar Dhalwal R/o House No. 1870, Ground Floor, Co-Operative Housing Society, Near PCA Stadium, Sector 64, SAS Nagar, Mohali (PB) 160062, have changed my name from Lata Rani to Lata Rani Dhalwal. All concerned please note. (CL24089053)

I, Meera Singh S/o Zora Singh R/o Bathinda, have changed my name to Meera Singh Sidhu. (CL24089105)

I, Mohanmud Salik S/o Dara Khan R/o Delhi Gate Maletkotla, Dist. Maletkotla (Punjab), have changed my name to Mohanmud Salik Khan. (CL24089106)

I, Jasbir Singh S/o Maya Chand R/o House No. 1615, FE, Sector 26, Panchkula, Tehsil & Dist. Panchkula, Haryana 134116 have changed my name from Amarjit Singh to Jasbir Singh. All concerned please note. (CL24089059)

I, Rani Singh Son of Ram Kishan Residence of # 1822, Village Baral, Sector 45, Chandigarh presently residing at # 7813, Block-H, Aerocity, Mohali, Punjab declare that I had disowned to my son Manoj Kumar in Hindustan Times and in Dainik Bhaskar publication on 20th August, 2016. Now, they are under my control and they have full rights in my moveable/ immovable property. (CL24089103)

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COURT NOTICES

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Sh. Sachin Yadav Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), Chandigarh Union Bank of India Vs. Nareesh Bhandari For recovery of Rs. 49,102.57/- CNR No. CHCH02-003493-2021 Next Date: 21.01.2025 Publication issued to: Nareesh Bhandari Father: Ashok Bhandari, H.No: 79/A, Dashmesh Nagar, Naya Gaon, Village Karoran, Tehsil Kharar, District SAS Nagar, Punjab. In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 21.01.2025 at 10:00 a.m. For details login to <https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?tr=distnot&notice&district=chandigarh> Dated, this day of 20.12.2024 Sd/- Sachin Yadav Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), CL24089045 Chandigarh. (U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Sh. Ankit Atri Civil Judge Jr. Div., Chandigarh Pooja Mehta @ Pooja Miglani Vs. General Public CNR No. CHCH02-001711-2024 Next Date:- 11.02.2025 Publication issued to: General Public In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 11.02.2025 at 10:00 a.m. For details login to <https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?tr=distnot&notice&district=chandigarh> Dated, this day of 05.12.2024. Sd/- Civil Judge Jr. Div., CL24089061 Chandigarh In the High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh Civil Writ Jurisdiction CWP No. 25828 of 2022 State Bank of India ...Petitioner(s) V/s Permanent Lok Adalat Faizgah Sahai and Ots. ...Respondent(s) Notice to: 3. M/s Katco Food Test and Research, Kashmir Complex, G.T. Road Deraba, District Ludhiana through its authorized signatory. Whereas a petition under Article 226/227 of the Constitution of India, wherein you have been joined as respondent and it is proved to the satisfaction of this Court that the above named respondent cannot be served in the ordinary manner. Notice is hereby issued against him for 17.01.2025 (Actual date) and that if you wish to urge anything in reply to the petition, you may appear in this Court on that date, and file your statement 3 days before that day either in person or through any Advocate duly instructed. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date aforementioned the case shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of the court this 21st day of November 2024. Sd/- Superintendent (Writs) for Assistant Registrar (Writs) CL24089078

The Tribune

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THE RIGHT CHOICE

Katra bandh enters Day 7 as deadlock persists over proposed ropeway plan

ARJUN SHARMA

JAMMU, DECEMBER 31 Katra, the base camp for Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage, witnessed a shutdown for the seventh consecutive day on Tuesday as the locals continued their protest against the proposed ropeway project in the Trikuta Hills of Reasi district. The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti had called for the shutdown on Wednesday, announcing that all activities in Katra would remain suspended. The bandh has disrupted normal life in one of the busiest towns in the country, as thousands of pilgrims arrive in Katra daily to pay obeisance at the cave shrine.

Health Department officials on Tuesday conducted a medical check-up of the youths observing indefinite fast to press for the release of several persons detained during the protests in Katra. One of the fasters was hospitalized. Several protesters, including Samiti leaders Bhupinder Singh and Sohan Chand,

Women protest during a bandh called by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti in Katra on Tuesday. PTI

were detained and removed from the protest site during Wednesday's march. Congress' J&K chief Tariq Hameed Karra criticised the L-G-led administration, accusing it of creating an issue due to its "negative attitude". "It seems there is anarchy in entire J&K as the administration is not ready to listen to the genuine

demands of the people," said Karra. "We do not know who is benefitting from the ropeway project. It is being pursued by the administration despite widespread resistance. The administration should engage with genuine stakeholders," he said. Karra targeted the BJP, stating that the "party had repeatedly betrayed the people of

J&K and would never support the protesters". Former minister Jugal Kishore, speaking to the media, urged the administration to resolve the issue immediately. "The resolution of this issue should not be delayed, as it has already been a week since so many people have been protesting and shutting down their businesses," he said.

The BJP, which is in opposition in J&K, has so far refrained from openly supporting the protesters. However, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary of the ruling National Conference recently visited Katra and expressed solidarity with the protesting locals.

Although BJP MLA Baldev Raj Sharma from the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi constituency has voiced support for the protesters, the J&K unit of the BJP has emphasised the economic losses faced by locals due to the strikes. J&K BJP chief spokesperson Sunil Sethi urged negotiations between the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti and the administration. "A mutual agreement should be reached. The L-G administration has already formed a committee on the issue, and the Samiti should select representatives for talks. In a civilised society, dialogue is the only way to resolve issues. The bandh is also affecting the pilgrimage and the livelihoods of locals," Sethi said.

On Kashmir visit, Northern Command chief Lt Gen Kumar reviews security

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 31 Army's Northern Commander Lt General MV Suchindra Kumar visited Kashmir to review the operational preparedness of the troops in the Valley. "Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar visited Chinari Corps to review the operational preparedness of the formation," the Northern Command of the

Compliments troops for anti-terror ops

Army posted on its X handle. Lt Gen Kumar complimented the troops for successful anti-terrorist operations in the valley. "The Army Commander complimented all ranks for successful conduct of counter terrorist operations and exhorted all ranks to maintain professionalism in conduct of operations," it added. The visit of top Army officer comes after the recent success of anti-militancy operations in the Valley. Top Hizbul commander Farooq Ahmed Bhat was among the five militants killed in an operation in Kulgam on December 19.

Statehood & dual control of power remain crucial issues for Omar govt

ADIL AYOUB

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 31 Though the 2024 Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir fulfilled the long-standing demand for an elected government, the absence of statehood and the dual control of powers remain significant issues for the new government.

In September, J&K saw its first Assembly elections since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. Following the results in October, the National Conference (NC) emerged as the single-largest party, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured the highest number of seats in the Jammu region. Consequently, it was the NC that formed the government in the Union Territory (UT). However, two months after the formation of the government, Valley-based legislators are expressing concerns. They acknowledge the significance of the 2024 elections but are now calling on the Central government to promptly restore statehood and end the dual power centres within the UT. Kulgam MLA and CPM leader MY Tarigami told The Tribune that commitments

The restoration of statehood is a poll promise of Omar Abdullah's NC, it is

made by the Union Government must be honoured. "What we are suggesting is that statehood, LOOKING AHEAD 2025 NEW YEAR SPECIAL which is the minimum demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir must be restored," he stated. Tarigami added that the current situation leaves the Assembly disempowered, with both legisla-

tors and the government unclear on their powers. "At a time when expectations are high, the government and legislators are seen as not doing what they are expected to," he noted. Ever since the government was formed, the absence of clearly defined business rules continues to create tensions between the Raj Bhavan and Omar government. Even as the Omar Abdullah government heads many crucial departments in the present setup, most of them are also headed by IAS officers, which are controlled by Raj Bhavan.

A recent dispute arose over the 2025 holiday calendar for J&K administration, which excluded December 5 (the birth anniversary of NC founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah) and July 13 (Martyrs' Day in the Valley). Prof Noor Baba, based in Srinagar, observed that despite the long-awaited elections, the ruling government has failed to make significant progress in the two months since its formation. "The reason is mainly the UT setup and the ambiguity in the existing power system," he said, warning that this ambiguity could lead to frustration among the people if their issues are not addressed. "People voted in large numbers thinking their issues would be resolved," he added. A South Kashmir MLA said everyone is hoping statehood would be restored sooner. "It is something the Union Government should immediately do. J&K is a sensitive state and two power centres are not going to benefit anyone," he said. As the new government grapples with these issues, calls for statehood restoration and the end of dual control continue to grow.

J&K cops attach assets of two terror handlers

OUR CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, DECEMBER 31 The Jammu and Kashmir Police have attached in Rajouri the properties of two absconding terror handlers currently operating from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), officials said on Tuesday. The attachment was carried out in the presence of revenue authorities on Monday. The attached land, measuring 7 kanals and 18 marlas, belongs to Ishfaq Ahmed of

Bhatnagar village in Thanamandi tehsil, and Zahid Ali Khan of the same village, a police spokesperson said. "These Pakistan-based terror handlers are accused of activities linked to supporting anti-national elements. The attachment of properties is part of ongoing efforts to dismantle the networks of Pakistan-based handlers and their associates operating in the region. The district police are committed to curbing anti-national activities in Rajouri," he added.

Dallewal to accept medical..

to the Punjab Government for its "failure" to implement the court order to shift Dallewal to a hospital. On December 28, the two top officers filed separate affidavits explaining their position on the issue. However, the Bench wasn't satisfied. "We are not satisfied with the efforts of the state of Punjab regarding compliance with the orders dated December 20. Having regard to the assurance by the Advocate General, we are inclined to grant more time to take appropriate steps to comply with the directions. If the state of Punjab requires any assistance, we direct the Centre to give all requisite support to ensure compliance with our directions," it had said.

MEAs promises to provide assistance to Kerala nurse...

In 2018, Priya was sentenced to death by a trial court. Her family has since been fighting for her release. They approached the Supreme Court too, but their appeal was rejected in 2023. With the President turning down the appeal for clemency on December 30, her release depends on securing

the forgiveness of Mahdi's family and its tribal leaders. Yemeni media stated that "Priya killed Mahdi with the help of another person and chopped his body into pieces before dumping it into a water tank in her house". She was arrested while attempting to flee Yemen in 2018.

Priya's family and advocacy groups have launched campaigns to save her while her mother, Prema Kumari, is in Sana'a to negotiate with Mahdi's family to secure forgiveness through "blood money". As per the Yemen law, a death penalty can be nullified only if the victim's family agrees to pardon the

culprit, often in exchange for blood money. The negotiations to seek pardon for Priya hit a roadblock in September this year when Abdullah Ameer, the Indian Embassy-appointed lawyer, raised a pre-negotiation fee of nearly Rs 17.12 lakh, which he later doubled to

nearly Rs 34.24 lakh. A portion of the amount, raised by the 'Save Nimisha Priya International Action Council' through crowdfunding, was used to pay the first instalment of Rs 17.12 lakh, but a disagreement over the fund transparency has complicated the matter.

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan during an event at Varkala in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. PTI

Sangh mindset: Kerala CM on Maha minister's 'mini Pakistan' remark

vile attack on Kerala and call upon all democratic and secular forces to unite against the Sangh Parivar's hateful propaganda," Vijayan said. Rane termed Kerala a "mini Pakistan" and claimed that "all terrorists vote for Gandhi", referring to the election victories of Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat. Facing sharp criticism from opposition parties for

his comments, the BJP minister on Monday maintained that Kerala was very much a part of India, and that he was "merely raising issues of religious conversion of Hindus and love jihad in the southern state". Strongly condemning Rane's statement, AICC general secretary KC Venugopal on Monday demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi respond to the controversial remarks made by the Maharashtra minister. — PTI

DISCLAIMER

The Tribune Trust does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon.



# Right to property can't be brushed aside due to delay: Apex Court

## POOR BEARING BRUNT OF 'MANUWAAD'

NORTHERN RAILWAY					
E-Tendering					
Open tenders through e-tendering are invited on & behalf of president of India by Sr. Divisional Engineer/Coordination, Northern Railway, Ambedkar from the willing contractors for following work upto 15.00 hrs. on this date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter.					
Sr. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Date of closing & opening
1	Provision of RCC Box Channel for water supply at K.M. 21/16-17 adjoining Canal Bridge No. 19-A between Station JPS-SUKN on JHL-HSR section by Box Pushing Technique under running track in the section of SSE/Works /SAG under ADEN/PTA.	1,66,66,788	2,28,300	06 Months	23.01.2025
2	Replacement of 1 deep tube well from Koti Tunnel to KUK, construction of Pump House, UG Water tank and laying of DI pipe for water demand at KUK particularly in summer in the section of SSE/WGLK.	2,18,87,692	2,58,300	12 Months	23.01.2025
3	Improvement of Rain Water Harvesting System in RPFS 9th Battalion, JUDW under ADEN/JUDW.	5,61,005	11,200	04 Months	23.01.2025
4	Balance work of CTR(S) of 1.470Tkm and TRR (S) of 12.234 Tkm of the existing 52Kg 90UTS rails LWR laid on ST/Wooden/CST-9 Sleepers to M+7 density with 52Kg/60Kg rail on PSC sleeper with Elastic fastenings including increasing the ballast cushion with deep screening & recoupment of ballast from the existing standard in the section of ADEN/PTA under Sr.DEN-II/UMB.	83,12,567	1,88,300	04 Months	23.01.2025
5	Provision of covered shed on existing LMS/Subway in lieu of L-xing no. 134-A/C & 139 on UMB + LDM section in the section of ADEN/RPJ under jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-IV/UMB.	1,73,28,838	2,36,600	04 Months	23.01.2025
6	Annual Repair, white washing and painting of staff quarters & service buildings alongwith hiring of skilled and unskilled labour under Zone RPAR (incl) to DLPC (incl) section for the 2024-25 in the section of SSE/Works/NLDM under ADEN/SIR	89,99,999	2,00,000	06 Months	23.01.2025

1. Tenderers are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN/TIN/GST as per conditions.

2. The required Bid Security will be acceptable On-line payment through Net Banking/or Payment Gateway payment only

3. Tenderers should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in a tendering of works/tenders.

4. For detail, please log on REPS website www.REPS.gov.in

5. GST will be levied as per GST Act, 2017

Open Tender Notice No.: NIT-53/UMS-2024-25 Dated : 31.12.2024

Sending Customers With A Smile

3699/2024



**ਪੈਪਸੂ ਰੋਡ ਟਰਾਂਸਪੋਰਟ ਕਾਰਪੋਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਬਠਿੰਡਾ**

ਬੋਲੀ ਬੋਲੀ ਬੋਲੀ

ਅਸੀਂ ਜਨਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਸੁਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਮਿਤੀ 02.01.2025 ਨੂੰ ਸਮਾਂ ਸਵੇਰੇ 11:00 ਵਜੇ ਪੀ.ਆਰ.ਟੀ.ਸੀ., ਬਠਿੰਡਾ ਡਿਪੋ ਅਧੀਨ ਆਉਂਦੇ ਬਠਿੰਡਾ ਬੱਸ ਸਟੇਡ ਅਤੇ ਰਾਮਾਂ ਮੰਡੀ ਦੀਆਂ ਪਾਲੀ ਦੁਕਾਨਾਂ/ਸਟਾਲਾਂ ਦੀ ਖੁੱਲ੍ਹੀ ਬੋਲੀ ਪੀ.ਆਰ.ਟੀ.ਸੀ., ਬਠਿੰਡਾ ਡਿਪੋ ਰੱਖੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਚਾਰਵਾਨ ਸਜਣ ਉਕਤ ਮਿਤੀ, ਸਮਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਸਥਾਨ 'ਤੇ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਕੇ ਬੋਲੀ ਦੇ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ। ਬੋਲੀ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਕੰਮ ਵਾਲੇ ਦਿਨ ਦਫਤਰੀ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਦੋਖੀਆਂ ਜਾਂ ਸਕਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਬੋਲੀ ਕੈਸਲ/ਅਗੇ ਰਹਿਣ ਦਾ ਅਧਿਕਾਰ ਜਨਰਲ ਮੈਨੇਜਰ, ਪੀ.ਆਰ.ਟੀ.ਸੀ., ਬਠਿੰਡਾ ਕੋਲ ਰਾਖਵਾਂ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਦਿਵਿਆਂਗ ਵਿਅਕਤੀਆਂ ਲਈ ਰਾਖਵਾਂਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਜ਼ਿਆਦਾ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਕੰਮ ਵਾਲੇ ਦਿਨ ਫੋਨ ਨੰ. 0184-22315417 'ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ।

ਸਹੀ:- ਜਨਰਲ ਮੈਨੇਜਰ, ਪੀ.ਆਰ.ਟੀ.ਸੀ., ਬਠਿੰਡਾ।

DPR/PB40351

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/ AUTH	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/ TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) in Rupees
1	HARYANA SCHOOL SHIKSHA PARIYOJNA PARISHAD	DIT FOR CONST OF 6 ACR AND 3 PCB LAB IN GCSS PARULHADAR, DISTT. GURUGRAM + 8 WORKS	24.12.2024 06.01.2025	1028.46 LACS

WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/AUTH.: [www.hsepp.in](http://www.hsepp.in)

NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/E-MAIL: 9463239081  
civilbranchharyana@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaprocurment.gov.in](http://www.haryanaprocurment.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

PRDH/132054303141613134

**PUNJAB STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**

Telephones: 0172-2704040  
E-mail: [psidc@rediffmail.com](mailto:psidc@rediffmail.com)

PSIDC Ltd. (A State Govt. Undertaking) invites applications for the post of **Company Secretary on contract basis** at a consolidated monthly remuneration of **Rs. 50,000/-** all inclusive.

**Age, Qualification & Experience:** The candidate should be below 50 years of age with the qualification of CS preferably with **M.Com/CA/LLB, 3 years experience** as Company Secretary and should be able to conduct the Board meeting and handle matters relating to Company Law and other statutory requirements independently.

Candidates should submit their detailed resume with two latest photographs & copies of mark sheets & experience certificates to the **Managing Director/PSIDC, Udyog Bhawan, 18, Himalaya Marg, Sector 17, Chandigarh** within **20 days** of date of publication of this advertisement.

DPR/PB40342 Sd/- **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**PUNJAB AGRO INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED**

Plot No 2 A, Madhya Marg, Sector 28A, Chandigarh, 160002

**E-TENDER NOTICE FOR SALE OF UNSOLD GRADED WHEAT SEED/UNDERSIZE WHEAT SEED/SUNFLOWER SEED**

Online E-tenders are invited through Two bid system from the interested parties for the sale of (i) graded wheat seed (ii) leftover undersize wheat after grading the seed and (iii) sunflower seed (PBI-2080) on "as is where it is basis" at Seed Processing Plant, PAIG, Salem Tsbri, Ludhiana, 141005.

Tender will be received and opened as under:-

Date of submission and receipt of e-tender	01.01.2025 to 22.01.2025 up to 11:00 AM.
Date of Opening of Technical Bid	22.01.2025 at 3:00 PM
Date of Opening of Financial Bid	After evaluation of Technical Bid
Earnest Money	Rs. 50,000/-
Tender fees	Rs. 5000/- + GST

Tender notice, terms and conditions and detail of material lying are available at the government portal i.e. <https://proc.punjab.gov.in/>, EMD and tender form fees are to be deposited through online mode only on the portal. Any further communication or corrigendum will be uploaded online only. For any query, email on [jagdeep.singh25@punjab.gov.in](mailto:jagdeep.singh25@punjab.gov.in) or contact on Mobile No. 85447-18919; CIN U5123CH9685CG002630

General Manager (AS)

**DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS KATHUA**

E-mail: [spkathua@jppolice.gov.in](mailto:spkathua@jppolice.gov.in) Fax/Phone No. 01922-234010

**LOOK OUT NOTICE**

On 24.12.2024, one Abdul Hamid S/O Bashir Ahmed R/o Doda Tehsil Basohli District Kathua lodged a written report at Police Station Basohli stating therein that on 21.12.2024 his son namely Mohd Irfan, age 18/19 years, went to Basohli and did not returned home. The complainant tried his best to search his son but all in vain. On this, missing report vide DD No. 08 dated 24.12.2024 has been entered at Police Station Basohli.

During the course of investigation, best efforts were made to locate missing individual, whereas he is still un-traced.

As such Description Roll/Photograph of said missing individual is being shared with the appeal that anybody having clue/information about his whereabouts may inform us accordingly. The informer will be rewarded suitably:-

DESCRIPTION ROLL	PHOTOGRAPH
Name: Mohd Irfan	
Father: Abdul Hamid	
Permanent Address: Village Doda	
Present Address: Village Doda	
Tehsil: Basohli	
Police Station: Basohli	
Age: 18/19 years	
Height: 5 feet 6 inch	
Complexion: Fair	
Built: Medium	
Face: Round	
Eyes: Black	
Language known: Dogri/Hindi	

Any information related to the whereabouts of the subject may be communicated on following Contacts:-

1. DPO Kathua 01922-234010 (Phone/Fax)
2. [spkathua@jppolice.gov.in](mailto:spkathua@jppolice.gov.in) (Mail ID)
3. PCR Kathua 01922-234311 (Phone/Fax)
4. Police Station Basohli 9103007514

Sd/- Sr. Superintendent of Police, Kathua.

DPR/PB40344

**कार्यालय पुलिस उपायुक्त, मुख्यालय, सोनीपत (सार्वजनिक सूचना)**

सर्व साधारण जन को सूचित किया जाता है कि थाना खरखौदा के मुकदमा नं. 598/24 धारा 3(5), 287 BNS, 7-10-55 आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम व धारा 4 विस्फोटक पदार्थ अधिनियम एक्ट नं. 6 सन् 1908 थाना खरखौदा में जन्म 6 इंच पेट्रोल जो एक इंच देखने में 200 लीटर प्रतीत हो रहा है जिनमें औसतन 1200 लीटर पेट्रोल, 5 इंच डीजल जो औसतन 1000 लीटर डीजल और 14 इंच फूल थीनर जो औसतन 2800 लीटर थीनर 3 इंच आधा थीनर लगभग 300 लीटर थीनर बरामद किये गये थे। उपरोक्त बरामद तेल डीजल, पेट्रोल व थीनर के खुली नीलामी के आदेश माननीय अदालत श्री विक्रांत SDJM, खरखौदा के CIS NO CRM-319 of 2024 दिनांक 28.10.2024 द्वारा प्राप्त हो चुके हैं। इस नीलामी के संबंध में अगर कोई भाग लेना चाहता है तो दिनांक 02.01.2025 को जितने पत्र सतबीर निवासी गांव खुम्पुर, तहसील खरखौदा, जिला सोनीपत के प्लॉट पर सुबह 10.00 AM पर खुली नीलामी को जाएगी।

नीलामी के संबंध में नीचे दिये गये मोबाइल नम्बर पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

सहायक पुलिस आयुक्त श्री जीत सिंह, थाना, खरखौदा 7419410517

प्रबंधक अफसर थाना खरखौदा 7419410536

PSI सौरव, थाना खरखौदा 8683819531

अपराध अभिलेख अधिकारी, कृते पुलिस उपायुक्त, मुख्यालय, सोनीपत।

PRDH/1084/11/2971/2025/3 H08/31/4

**PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**

Regd. Office: PSPCL H.O., The Mall, Patiala - 147001  
CIN: U40109PB2018SG003613 Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)

Office DS Division PSPCL, Doraha  
Contact No.: 96461-13786, email: [psabdoraha@gmail.com](mailto:psabdoraha@gmail.com)  
Tender Enquiry No. 02/2024-25 Date: 23.12.2024

Additional Superintending Engineer, DS Division, PSPCL Doraha invites Open Tender for hiring of one number official vehicle for official use at Rural area office of AE Sub Division Ghudani Kalan (Mahendra Genius/Bolero/Tata 207/408 single door/double door or equivalent in price) during year 2024-25. For detailed NIT & tender specifications, delivered on sale, kindly visit DS Division, PSPCL Doraha by 10:00AM dated 10.01.2025. Last date & time of submission of tender is 10.01.2025 at 12:00 Noon. Date & time of opening of tender is 10.01.2025, 2:00 PM.

NOTE:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be uploaded on pspcl website [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)  
C 946/24 DPR/PB40359

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB**

TENDER/RFP REFERENCE No. 26 OF 2024, Dated: 31.12.2024

The Department of PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD re-invites online bids:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Amount
1.	Prov. Tap Conn. to consumers, Ext. and Aug. of WS System at Nadala District Kapurthala for Distribution Network, Installation of Tubewell and Const. of 0.5 Lakh Gallon OHSR under AMRUT 2.0 Scheme, Part-I, Phase-I	Rs. 1200.64 Lacs

Closing Date & Time : 23.01.2025 up to 03:00 p.m.  
For Details login to : <https://proc.punjab.gov.in>

Note:- Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.S & Sew. Divn. No. 2, Jalandhar.

DPR/PB40354

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB**

TENDER/RFP REFERENCE No. 27 OF 2024, Dated: 31.12.2024

The Department of PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD re-invites online bids:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Amount
1.	Prov. Tap Conn. to consumers, Ext. and Aug. of WS System at Bagowal District Kapurthala for Distribution Network, Installation of Tubewell and Construction of 1.0 Lakh Gallon OHSR under AMRUT 2.0 Scheme, Part-I, Phase-I	Rs. 683.59 Lacs

Closing Date & Time : 16.01.2025 up to 03:00 p.m.  
For Details login to : <https://proc.punjab.gov.in>

Note:- Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.S & Sew. Divn. No. 2, Jalandhar.

DPR/PB40353

**PUNJAB STATE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**

Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001  
Office of Dy. CE/TS(D), 1st Floor, Shakti Sadan, Patiala - 147001.  
Tel: 0175-2207774, FAX: 0175-2207774, e-mail: [se-dtd@pstcl.org](mailto:se-dtd@pstcl.org)  
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SG003614

**(NOTICE INVITING TENDER)**

STQ-7080 Regarding Supply, Retrofitting, Testing and Commissioning of Line Differential Protection Relays on various 400 kV, 220 kV and 132 kV Transmission Lines of PSTCL. EMD of Rs. 360000/- be submitted via e-payment gateway on the e-tendering portal (IGEPN/C) or valid PEMD certificate for CE/TS PSTCL.

1. Last Date & Time for downloading of tender 03.02.2025 up to 11:00 Hrs.
2. Last Date & Time for receipt of tender 03.02.2025 up to 11:00 Hrs.
3. Date & Time for opening of tender 05.02.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.

Detailed NIT/specification may be downloaded from PSTCL e-tendering website <https://proc.punjab.gov.in/procapp>. Corrigendum, if any, will not be published in newspapers. As such, the website may be visited regularly for updates.

Dy. CE/TS (D), PSTCL, Patiala

DPR/PB40341

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM**

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/ AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/ SR NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/ CORP/AUTH	SOCIAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	SHRIYIN	NETRO BAGHAT	THE RECEIPT AND ORDER OF TENDER ENQUIRY FOR WORKING OF BUILDING FOR PURPOSE FOR CONSULTANT CENTER AT MODEL TOWN FOR OFFICE OF SOO JOM SUB DIVISION, URBAN, SECTOR, THIRU ARAGALAI CITY, JAWAHAR NETRO BAGHAT, EXTENDED TO 04.01.2025	<a href="mailto:se-dtd@pstcl.org">se-dtd@pstcl.org</a>	0175-2207774 se-dtd@pstcl.org
2	SHRIYIN	95804-25	AMC OF MEAT OF SPIN SPINER/SPINER SUB DIVISION, COOPERATIVE MEAT ROAD, CHANDIA	<a href="mailto:se-dtd@pstcl.org">se-dtd@pstcl.org</a>	0175-2207774 se-dtd@pstcl.org

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)  
PRDH/132054303141613134

**Department of Water Resources, Punjab, Patiala**

**Public Notice**

It is hereby informed that Mr. Jashanpreet Singh Canal Patwar, son of Mr. Sukhdev Singh, resident of Ward No. 10 Asam Khaz Bagh, Sirhind, Distt. Patiala Sahib has been continuously absent from his official duties since 29/04/2023. Despite multiple attempts to contact him through mobile and at his home address, Mr. Jashanpreet Singh has failed to provide any clarification regarding his absence.

A charge sheet has been issued to him by the Chief Engineer Headquarters, Water Resources Department, Punjab, and he has been given 15 days to present his defense. In case of no response or clarification within the specified time, it will be presumed that Mr. Jashanpreet Singh Canal Patwar does not wish to resume his duties, and disciplinary action will be taken under Rule 5 of the Punjab Civil Services (Punishment and Appeal) Act, 1970, including suspension from government service.

This notice is issued for public information.

Date: 23/12/2024  
"Issued by:" Sd/- Executive Engineer/Devgarh, Patiala Canal and General Water Division, Water Resources Department, Punjab, Patiala.

DPR/PB40348

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

(Construction Organization USBRL Project)

**PRESS NOTIFICATION**

**CRS INSPECTION OF NEW LINE FROM KATRA-REASI SECTION OF FIROZPUR DIVISION**

Newly constructed line in Katra-Reasi section (16.501 Kms) of Firozpur Division will be opened with electric train operation shortly. High speed trial of the section by special train will be conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety on 07.01.2025 after trolley inspection. Thereafter, new line train working will start soon in between Katra-Reasi Stations of USBRL Project.

General public is informed to stay away from Railway lines in above section. Crossing the track at any location is trespassing and is a punishable offence and liable for prosecution under Railway Act.

No: DyCE/CIJAT/CRS Dated: 30.12.2024

Northern Railway Construction Organization USBRL project

09/06/2024

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,**  
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION, AWANTIPORA

Phone/Fax: 01933-247152  
E-mail: [phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com](mailto:phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com)

**CORRIGENDUM**

Refer this office eNIT No. 33/PHA of 2024-25 Dated: 24.12.2024 endorsed vide this office No. AWP/PHE/3685-97 Dated: 24.12.2024 regarding the work "Providing of Tanker service to various habitations of Sub Division Tral of PHE Division Awantipora. (Under Tanker Service)", wherein the tank capacity of the tanker may be treated as 4000 liters minimum instead of 5000 liters.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Awantipora.

No. AWP/PHE/3720-30, Dated: 27.12.2024

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,**  
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION, AWANTIPORA

Phone/Fax: 01933-247152  
E-mail: [phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com](mailto:phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com)

**CORRIGENDUM**

Refer this office eNIT No. 34/PHA of 2024-25 Dated: 26.12.2024 endorsed vide this office No. AWP/PHE/3685-97 Dated: 26.12.2024 regarding the work "Providing of Tanker service to various habitations of Sub Division Awantipora and Pampora of PHE Division Awantipora. (Under Tanker Service)", wherein the tank capacity of the tanker may be treated as 4000 liters minimum instead of 5000 liters.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Awantipora.

No. AWP/PHE/3710-19, Dated: 27.12.2024

DPR/1010B/24

# 10 WORLD

## Russian forces launch multiple missile, drone attacks on Kyiv

KYIV, DECEMBER 31  
Russia launched an aerial attack on Ukraine on Tuesday, striking the capital and other regions with multiple missiles and drones.

Ukraine's air force reported a ballistic missile threat at 3 am (0100 GMT), with at least two explosions heard in Kyiv minutes later. Another missile alert was issued at 8 am followed by at least one explosion in the city. Missile debris fell in the Dmytshkyi district of the capital with no reports of casualties or damage, the local administration said.

Authorities in the northeastern Summy region reported strikes near the city of Shostka, where the mayor, Mykhailo Noha, said 12 residential buildings had been damaged as well as two educational facilities. He said some "social infrastructure objects" were destroyed, without providing detail.

The air force also reported missiles and drones targeting several other regions of Ukraine. In Moscow, the Russian Defence Ministry said that



Around half of Ukraine's energy infra has been destroyed in the war.

Kyiv's Western allies have provided air defense systems to help Ukraine protect critical infrastructure, but Russia has sought to overwhelm its air defences with combined strikes involving large numbers of missiles and drones.

Russian attacks come as uncertainty looms over the course of the nearly three-year conflict. US President-elect Donald Trump, who takes office next month, has vowed to end the war and has thrown into doubt whether vital US military support for Kyiv will continue. On Monday, President Joe Biden announced that the United States will send an additional USD 2.5 billion in weapons to Ukraine as his administration works quickly to spend all the money it has available to help Kyiv. — AP

## Ties advancing to greater heights: Xi in New Year message to Putin

BEIJING, DECEMBER 31  
China and Russia are moving forward hand in hand along the "right path" of non-alliance, non-confrontation and their relations have been advancing towards "higher levels", Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Tuesday in his New Year message to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

"In the face of the accelerated transformation unseen in a century and a volatile international landscape, China and Russia always move forward hand in hand along the right path of non-alliance, non-confrontation, and not targeting any third party," Xi said in the message. — PTI

## Unsung Indian-origin heroes' feature in King Charles' New Year honours list

LONDON, DECEMBER 31  
Community leaders, campaigners, academics and medics are among over 30 Indian-origin professionals to be recognised in King Charles' 2025 New Year Honours List released in London in time for New Year's Eve.

Ranil Malcolm Jayawardena, a Conservative member of Parliament of Sri Lanka and Indian heritage, has been conferred a knighthood for political and public service along with recently resigned England men's football team manager Gareth Southgate, for services to the game.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan and former West Midlands Mayor Andy Street are also among those receiving knight-

### Mayor Sadiq Khan to be knighted



hoods among more than 1,200 recipients on the 2025 honours list released on Monday night across all sectors, with particular commendation to role models in sport, healthcare, academia and voluntary service.

"Every day, ordinary people

go out and do extraordinary things for their communities," UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said. "They represent the very best of the UK and that core value of service which I put at the centre of everything this government does," he added.

The list includes CBEs for Satwant Kaur Deol for services to further education, Charles Pritam Singh Dhanow OBE for services to Competition Law, and surgeon Professor Sneha Khemka for services to healthcare, science and innovation and technology. Leena Nair, Global CEO of Chanel, will also be receiving a CBE for services to the retail and consumer sector. — PTI

# BUSINESS

USD \$	EURO €	POUND £	JPY ¥	YUAN ¥	CAD \$	AUD \$	SGD \$	HKD \$	RSE	NSE	DOLL	SILVER
₹85.81	₹88.25	₹107.01	₹0.54	₹11.72	₹59.45	₹53.07	₹62.94	₹11.02	109.12	0.100	₹76,795	₹87,286
									78,139.02	23,844.89	Monthly (M2)	Monthly (M2)

## At ₹8.47 lakh cr, fiscal deficit hits 52.5% of FY25 target till Nov-end

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 31  
The Centre's fiscal deficit at the end of the eighth month of financial year 2024-25 touched 52.5 per cent of the full-year target, government data showed on Tuesday.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit — the gap between the government's expenditure and revenue — was about Rs 8.47 lakh crore during the April-November period, according to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

In the Union Budget, the government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to 4.9 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in the current 2024-25 financial year. The deficit was 5.6 per cent of the GDP in 2023-24.

In absolute terms, the government aims to contain the fiscal deficit at Rs



16,13,312 crore during the current fiscal.

The revenue-expenditure data of the Union government for the first eight months of 2024-25 showed that the net tax revenue was about Rs 14.43 lakh crore.

the revenue account and Rs 5.13 lakh crore in the capital account.

Out of the total revenue expenditure Rs 6,58,494 crore is on account of interest payment and Rs 2,79,211 crore is on account of major subsidies.

A fiscal deficit is the difference between the total expenditure and revenue of the government. It is an indication of the total borrowing needed by the government.

Icm Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said the anticipated miss in the capex target is expected to offset any shortfall on account of disinvestment and taxes, as well as the impact of the recent supplementary demand for grants.

Accordingly, Icm expects the fiscal deficit to mildly trail the 2024-25 estimate of Rs 16.1 lakh crore or 4.9 per cent of GDP. — PTI

## WhatsApp Pay can now extend UPI services to all Indian users

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 31  
National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has lifted the limit from onboarding UPI users for the third-party app provider WhatsApp Pay with immediate effect.

With this development, WhatsApp Pay can now extend UPI services to its entire user base in India, NPCI said in a statement.

Previously NPCI had permitted WhatsApp Pay to expand its UPI user base in a phased manner, it added.

There was a cap of 100 million

users which has been lifted by NPCI. With this notification, it said, NPCI is removing the limit restrictions on user onboarding on WhatsApp Pay.

WhatsApp Pay will continue to comply with all existing UPI guidelines and circulars applicable to existing Third-Party Application Providers, it said.

NPCI, an initiative of the RBI and the Indian Banks' Association, is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India. — PTI

## IT infra hit by cyber attack, says Thomas Cook India

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 31  
Travel services provider Thomas Cook (India) Ltd on Tuesday said there had been a cyber attack on its IT infrastructure, and it was working with security experts to support its investigation and take remedial action.

In a regulatory filing, the company said, "There has been an incident involving a cyber attack on our IT infrastructure."

Without disclosing the exact timelines, it said, "Immediately upon becoming aware of the

Affected systems shut down immediately

incident, we have taken the necessary steps to investigate and respond to the incident, including shutting down affected systems."

Thomas Cook added, "We are working with cyber security experts to support our investigation and identify the extent of the issue and take remedial action as necessary." — PTI



BRIEFLY

**HYDERABAD**  
Bengal beat Kerala 1-0 to win Santosh Trophy for 33rd time  
West Bengal extended their supremacy in the National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy with a 1-0 win over Kerala in the summit showdown, claiming the title for an unprecedented 33rd time. Robi Hansda scored the only goal of the match in the added-time of the second half.

**DUBAI**  
Deepthi jumps to fifth spot in ICC ODI rankings  
India off-spinner Deepthi Sharma climbed a spot to enter the top-5 in the latest ICC women's ODI ranking for bowlers following her match-winning performances in the recently-concluded series against the West Indies at home. Deepthi, who is fifth now, has 665 rating points and is marginally behind fourth-placed South Africa's Marizanne Kapp (677 points).

**BRISBANE**  
Djokovic, Sabalenka win, Pericard aces Kyrgios test  
Novak Djokovic and Aryana Sabalenka began their season with straight-set wins but Nick Kyrgios' return to singles action did not go according to his plans at the Brisbane International. Djokovic tamed local favourite Rinky Hijikata 6-3 6-3. Earlier, Giovanni Mpetshi Pericard fired 36 aces to beat Kyrgios 7-6(2) 6-7(4) 7-6(3). Women's world No. 1 Sabalenka sent an ominous warning on her season debut with a 6-4 6-0 demolition of Renata Zarazua. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

NFL

BENGAL VS GONASKA

SONY TEN 8:15PM

EPL

BRENTFORD VS ARSENAL

STAR SPORTS 11PM

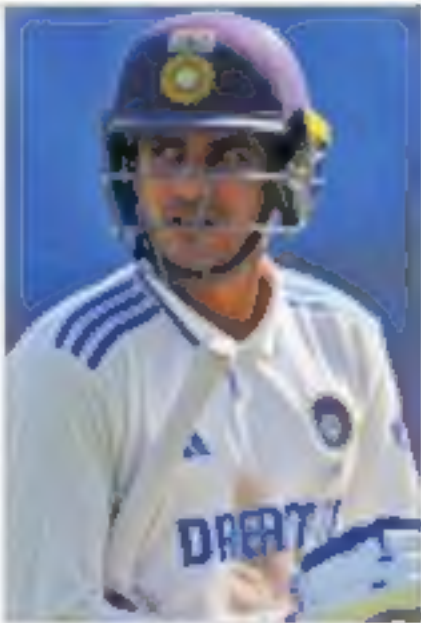
With India's batting struggling, Shubman could return to side for do-or-die final Test

Finding balance



Skipper Rohit Sharma has scored just 31 runs in five innings; BELOW: Shubman Gill was dropped for the Melbourne Test to include all-rounder Washington Sundar, RCT

The SCG has traditionally been a track that assists spinners as the match progresses and hence either Washington or Tanush Kotian is certain to play alongside Ravindra Jadeja, unless the skipper develops sudden faith in Jaiswal's leg-breaks and decides to play the specialist batter (Gill) and not the batting all-rounder (Washington).  
The Adelaide Test, played under lights with the pink Kookaburra, presented the Indian team with the most challenging circumstances and Gill, with scores of 31 and 28, looked way more comfortable than both



Rohit and Virat Kohli.  
The second option could be more convenient and it involves dropping one among Mohammed Siraj and Akash Deep to include

Gill as three specialist pacers could be a luxury at the SCG with Jadeja and Washington expected to bowl more overs than in Melbourne. Siraj redeemed himself with a fine spell in Melbourne while Akash Deep was distinctly unlucky to get just one wicket across two innings.  
The third option is the most inconvenient one but perhaps the need of the hour too if Rohit wants to lead by example. With just 31 runs in five innings and 155 runs in the last 14 knocks, the skipper could himself volunteer to step aside and let Gill play, with

Bumrah named captain of CA's Test team of year

**SYDNEY, DECEMBER 31**  
Jasprit Bumrah was on Tuesday recognised for his splendid performances in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy as Cricket Australia named the Indian pace spearhead as the captain of its Test team of the year, which also features Yashasvi Jaiswal.  
Bumrah has been the best bowler in Test cricket in 2024 with 71 wickets from 13 matches at an average of 14.92 and a strike rate of 30.16.



Jasprit Bumrah and Yashasvi Jaiswal are the only Indians named in Cricket Australia's Test team of the year. FILE

"One of the greatest calendar years by a bowler ever; not since Dale Steyn's 74-wicket 2008 has a pace bowler been as prolific and not since Imran Khan's 1982 (62 victims at 13.29) has one taken them at a better rate," CA, the game's governing body in the country, said of Bumrah.  
"Yes, he has torched Australia amid of the greatest tours by a visiting quick of all-time, but he also cleaned up England with 19 poles in four Tests on unhelpful home surfaces as every other seamer went around the park. As the only member of this side to have skippered their team in 2024 (leading India to victory in Perth) Bumrah also gets the captaincy reins - a job he could well see more of in future," CA added.  
The peerless fast bowler has been the best bowler in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy with 30 wickets in just four Tests.  
Jaiswal has been picked as the opener for his exploits with the bat in the year. Jaiswal finished the year as the second-highest scorer with 1,478 runs from 15 matches (29 innings) at an average of 54.74 with nine fifties and three centuries.  
For Jaiswal, CA wrote,



"India's bright young batting star was only 22 for all but four days of 2024 but played with the composure and class of a veteran. Jaiswal's back-to-back double centuries in February ensured a home Test series win for India over England, while the left-hander's stunning 161 in Perth was also decisive. His runs tally is the most by an Indian opener in a calendar year and his 36 sixes is a new worldwide benchmark for a calendar year." — PTI

Haryana's Sagar soars to new heights in javelin

**DEEPAKAR SHARMA**  
THE HINDU NEWS SERVICE  
**CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 31**  
Returning to the field after a five-month gap due to an injury, javelin thrower Sagar stunned everyone at the All India Inter University Athletics Meet in Bhubaneswar with a gold medal winning effort of 80.82 metres.  
The Haryana athlete, representing Patiala's Punjab University, missed breaking Olympics gold medalist Neeraj Chopra's meet record by just 0.22m. In 2015, Chopra had set the meet record with a throw of 81.04m. The 28-year-old Sagar, who is participating in his third inter university meet, had last participated in the Khelo India Games in February.  
"Breaking the record was never my aim. I was aiming for the gold medal but the javelin just felt perfect coming out of my hand. Before it landed, I knew it was going to be my personal best," said Sagar, who last marked a throw of 71m in the Khelo India Games.  
"It was after receiving the gold medal I came to know about missing the record by a whisker. Nevertheless, I will



Sagar with coach Dharminder Chahal after winning the javelin gold medal in the All India Inter University Athletics Meet.

Mumbai's Mhatre youngest to score 150 in List A cricket

**AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 31**  
Ayush Mhatre on Tuesday set a new world record for the youngest player to get a 150-plus score in List A cricket during Mumbai's Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Nagaland, bettering compatriot Yashasvi Jaiswal's effort.  
At 17 years and 168 days, Mhatre broke the previous record of Jaiswal, who was 17 years and 291 days when he achieved the feat while playing for Mumbai against against Jharkhand in 2019, according to MCA.  
Mhatre, who made his debut for domestic giants Mumbai earlier this season, clobbered 11 sixes and 15 fours to make 181 off only 117 balls while powering his side to 403/7 in 50 overs. — PTI



Ayush Mhatre made 181 off only 117 balls for Mumbai.

Ananya bags maiden senior air rifle gold



Meghana Sajjanar, Ananya Naidu and Narmada Nithin. ANI

**NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 31**  
Maharashtra's Ananya Naidu won her maiden senior women's 10m air rifle gold medal after staying off a late charge from Meghana Sajjanar. Naidu stood top of the podium after totalling 252.5 in the finals of the ongoing 67th National Shooting Championship Competitions in Bhopal on Tuesday.  
Naidu's final tally was a mere 0.2 more than the more experienced Sajjanar, who was representing the Railways. The bronze medal was won by Tamil Nadu's Narmada Nithin, who finished with a score of 231.3 points.  
In the final, Naidu led the

field with 1.4 points after the first five shots but while she led the 24-shot final, it became a close fight between her and Sajjanar during the final stages. Both Naidu and Sajjanar tallied 20.6 points in the last two shots.  
In the junior women's competition, Gautami Bhanot won the gold medal with a score of 251.5 points followed by Mayuri Pawar. They were both tied at 168.0 points at one stage in the final but Gautami edged with a score of 21.6 in the next two shots to Mayuri's 20.5 to regain the lead. The bronze was won by Disha Dhankar after she tallied 229.9 points. — TNS

Vaishali enters quarters of blitz, others fade away

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS  
RAPID AND BLITZ

**NEW YORK, DECEMBER 31**  
Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali surprised herself with a stellar performance to enter the quarterfinals of the World Blitz Championship here, even as recently-crowned rapid champion Koneru Humpy made an early exit.  
Following Humpy's stellar performance in rapid, which earned her the gold medal and a prize of \$60,000, it was Vaishali's turn to impress her fans. She scored 9.5 points out of a possible 11 to top the qualifying round.  
"I'm very happy with today's performance. Tomorrow will be a big day. Honestly, it (performance) was completely unexpected. I was not expecting the result like how it went today. Tomorrow, I have to be ready and prepare well and then see," she said.  
Russian Kateryna Lagno came closest to Vaishali, scoring 8.5 points, while the



R Vaishali scored 9.5 points to top the qualifying round. FILE

remaining six qualifiers finished with an identical eight points. Despite meeting the points criteria, Humpy was eliminated due to the worst tiebreaker, finishing ninth.  
In the quarterfinal, Vaishali will face Chinese Grandmaster Zhu Jiner.  
In the open section, 10 players were tied for first place, including world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen. Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi won the qualifier with 9.5 points, benefiting from the best tiebreak, while Fabi-

ano Caruana of the United States finished second, ahead of Carlsen, who was placed third.  
Surprisingly, none of the Indians made the top-eight. Arjun Erigaisi played brilliantly at the start, securing victories in the first five rounds, but faded away to finish with a sub-par seven points. R Praggnanandhaas was the best-placed Indian, with 8.5 points, but a last-round loss to Russian Daniil Dubov cost him a spot in the quarterfinals. — PTI

Manchester United lose again as Ipswich upset Chelsea

**LONDON, DECEMBER 31**  
Alexander Isak scored for the sixth straight Premier League game as Newcastle beat Manchester United 2-0 at Old Trafford to condemn Ruben Amorim's side to their worst home run in the top tier since the 1970s. Relegation-threatened Ipswich beat Chelsea 2-0 to win at home for the first time this season, and Aston Villa and Brighton drew 2-2. Newcastle's commanding display marked the first time since February 1979 that Man United have lost three home league games in a row. It is also the first time since 1962

that United have lost five league matches in the same calendar month.  
Isak started the misery for home fans with his eighth goal in six matches. The Sweden striker put Newcastle ahead with a header after four minutes and Joelinton doubled their lead 15 minutes later when he rose above Lisandro Martinez to head in a second.  
The defeat was the fifth in eight league games since Amorim joined from Sporting Lisbon in November. Chelsea started the day with the best away record in the

league after leaders Liverpool but they were trailing at Portman Road after just 12 minutes thanks to a mistake from goalkeeper Filip Jorgensen.  
The Scandinavian fouled Liam Delap in the box and Delap got up to convert the penalty with aplomb. Chelsea pushed forward in search of an equaliser but it was Ipswich that doubled their lead early in the second half. A poor pass from Axel Disasi allowed Delap to stretch the Chelsea defence and his pass set up Omari Hutchinson to score against his former club. — AP



Newcastle United's Alexander Isak scores their first goal against Manchester United. REUTERS



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